

Orange County Sanitation District

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May 13, 2019

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 405 (Rubio)

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 405, which provides a sales and use tax exemption for chemicals and other agents used to treat water, recycled water, or wastewater.

OCSD is a wastewater agency that serves 2.6 million people in north and central Orange County, California. The services that OCSD provides are critical to public health, water quality, and water supply in the region. As a resource recovery agency, we are partners with the Orange County Water District on the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the world's largest advanced water purification system for potable reuse. The GWRS takes highly treated wastewater that would have normally been released into the Pacific Ocean and produces up to 100 million gallons of high-quality water every day using a three-step advanced treatment process. This is enough water to meet the needs of nearly 850,000 residents in north and central Orange County.

By exempting vital chemicals that water and wastewater agencies use in bulk from sales and use tax, local agencies can save thousands of dollars per year that can be re-invested back into their water or wastewater treatment processes. The additional water or wastewater treated as a result of the savings far outweighs the minimal impact the tax from the sale of these chemicals generates for local taxing agencies every year.

For these reasons, the Orange County Sanitation District is pleased to support Assembly Bill 405.

Sincerely,



David John Shawver
Board Chairman



Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling