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16 April 2011

Honorable Jose Solorio  
California State Assembly  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0069

RE: **SUPPORT of AB 54: Drinking Water**

Dear Assembly Member Solorio:

The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions is pleased to support your amended bill, AB 54. Among other things, this legislation would require mutual water companies to be responsive to information requests on water service from Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCo).

The Cortese-Know-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act requires LAFCo to prepare municipal service reviews to inform decisions on agency spheres of influence and other service delivery decisions. Because availability of drinking water is a key element in LAFCo decisions, the water municipal service review(s) in each county are a critical information document. In many places in California domestic water is provided by mutual water companies. It has often proven difficult, however, for LAFCo to obtain basic information from the mutual companies and therefore impossible to prepare an accurate picture of the domestic water services in certain areas. In addition, LAFCos have little information on the territory served by mutual companies.

This legislation requires mutual water companies to provide requested water delivery information as well as provide LAFCo with a map of their service territory. It also authorizes LAFCo to request information on compliance with drinking water standards by all providers. Together these will provide commissions and the community with a more comprehensive review of all public water systems in the county. Public agencies are already required to provide this information. The Public Utilities Commission now requires investor-owned utilities to respond to information requests from LAFCo and provide maps. This legislation would place similar requirements on mutual water companies.

Because your bill would add critical water data to LAFCo municipal service reviews and water availability determinations, CALAFCO is in support. Thank you for your work on this legislation. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information.

Yours sincerely,



William Chiat,  
Executive Director

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c: Robert Fredenburg, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee  
Katie Kolutos, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Phil Nails, Assembly Republican Caucus