August 12, 2016

The Honorable Richard Gordon
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3013
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 2594 (Gordon): Stormwater resources: use of captured water

Dear Assemblymember Gordon:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 2594 (Gordon). This bill would clarify that public agencies that have a stormwater management plan in place have the authority to use captured stormwater “to the extent that the water augments water supplies supporting existing water rights.”

Long Beach strives to be a leader in stormwater best management practices. Recently, the City has partnered with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) to design and construct the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Recycle Facility. This project will capture and divert urban runoff containing pollutants to a newly constructed recycle water treatment facility prior to discharge into the lower Los Angeles River.

AB 2594 strikes the appropriate balance by protecting existing water rights and also expressly authorizing cities to capture and reuse excess stormwater. In its first phase, the LB-MUST Recycle Facility has the potential to produce 337,800 gallons of recycled water per day. Future phases of the project will add an additional production of over 700,000 gallons of recycled water per day. This will provide a new source of recycled water to augment and reduce the City’s potable water usage. The LB-MUST Recycle Facility will allow for the future opportunity to irrigate the City’s facilities, parkways and parks with recycled stormwater, and to achieve its goal of greening projects along the lower Los Angeles River.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 2594. Thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District