



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 12, 2025

**RE: Signature Request for SB 454 (McNerney)—State Water Resources Control
Board: PFAS mitigation program**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City supports SB 454 (McNerney), which would establish a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund intended to help local water agencies, including cities, leverage funding to pay for cleanup of manmade PFAS contamination in drinking water and wastewater. This much-needed funding tool would help water and wastewater agencies pay for costs that would otherwise be covered by local ratepayers on their water and wastewater bills to help maintain water affordability.

Cities and local water agencies are responsible for delivering safe, clean, and affordable drinking water throughout California. To fulfill that responsibility, local agencies must comply with federal and state drinking water standards. Drinking water standards can have significant financial impacts, which are passed on to water ratepayers via water bills and ultimately impact water affordability. The Long Beach Utilities Department actively monitors for PFAS in drinking water, and to date, has found no trace of regulated PFAS in local groundwater or other water sources in the drinking water distribution system

In April 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced new national, legally enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCL) of 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS as individual contaminants. This year, the State Water Resources Control Board is expected to initiate a formal rulemaking process to set a state drinking water standard for PFAS. Existing law requires a contaminant's MCL to be established at a level as close to its public health goal as is technologically and economically feasible. Existing law also requires state drinking water standards to be at least as stringent as federal standards set by the EPA. With California's MCL anticipated to be at least as protective as the federal MCL, the costs associated with treating California's water supplies will be significant.

SB 454 proposes the development of the PFAS Mitigation Fund to leverage current and future state, federal, and private funding for the State Water Resources Control Board to support cities and local water agencies in addressing the

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critically important infrastructure costs associated with PFAS treatment. Every community deserves safe and affordable drinking water, and for these reasons, the City requests your signature for SB 454.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach