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April 24, 2020

The Honorable Bill Quirk  
State Capitol Building, Room 2163  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: HOAC Supports AB 2296

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers in California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your AB 2296, a bill that would create a stabilization option for local jurisdictions to implement their Local Primacy Agency (LPA) drinking water oversight programs.

Access to safe, clean drinking water is a human right. State and local departments work together to safeguard this right for California's residents no matter where they live. In 30 counties, it is the local environmental health departments that serve as the LPA on behalf of the state to provide oversight and guidance to small water systems.

This bill will secure funding for the established, effective LPA regulatory program. It will also offer an opportunity of local jurisdictions to consider re-applying to become LPAs.

Importantly, AB 2296 provides an opt-in funding mechanism for the LPAs. The local agency may elect to charge its own local fee or have the state charge an aggregated state-wide fee for the systems in their jurisdiction and have the state fund the local oversight under a delegated agreement. Since each water system and each location is different and has different needs, it is important to allow this funding option.

Thank you for introducing AB 2296. We join our colleagues, the California Association of Environmental Health Administrators, in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director