



736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager (707) 822-5953	Police 822-2428	Recreation 822-7091
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Environmental Services Streets/Utilities 822-5957	Environmental Services Community Services 822-8184	Engineering & Building 825-2128

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Blanca Rubio  
State Capitol, Room 5175  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via email: [Chinook.Shin@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Chinook.Shin@asm.ca.gov)

**Re: AB 968 Retail Water Use: Water Efficiency Standards and  
AB 1654 (Rubio): Urban Water Management Planning**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

On behalf of the City of Arcata, we wish to express our support for AB 968 and 1654, your measures which would:

- Implement water use efficiency measures at the regional and local levels to reflect the best approach to meet water supply needs of the community;
- Achieve water shortage contingency planning and management;
- Enhance existing urban water management planning requirements and strengthen water suppliers' abilities to plan and prepare for future droughts.

AB 968 would require water suppliers to promote the efficient use of water versus increasing the efficiency of water use.

AB 968 would acknowledge that factors used to formulate long-term water use efficiency targets can vary significantly at various locations due to many factors. It is therefore optimal to utilize local and regional use efficiency measures that reflect the unique water supply and demand conditions that suit the needs of their communities.

AB 968 would establish standards that recognize and provide credit to water suppliers that made substantial capital investments in urban water use efficiency, sustainable drought resilient supplies and emergency supplies since the drought period tracking back to 1990. For Arcata this is important because we have maintained one of the lowest per capita water use rates in the state.

AB 1654 would enhance existing reporting and drought response requirements related to water shortage contingency analyses. Under the bill, urban retail water suppliers ("water suppliers") would report

annually to the Department of Water Resources on the status of their water supplies for that year and whether supplies will be adequate to meet projected customer demand. If supplies are not adequate to meet demand, the water supplier would be required to implement the appropriate responses as described in their water shortage contingency analysis.

AB 1654 would also prohibit a water supplier from being required to reduce its use or reliance on any water supply available beyond the steps specified in its water shortage contingency analysis, protecting water suppliers' and their customers' investments in resilient water supply sources.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact the City's Environmental Services Director, Mark Andre at (707) 822-8184 or by email at: [mandre@cityofarcata.org](mailto:mandre@cityofarcata.org).

Sincerely,



Susan Ornelas, Mayor  
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736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521  
707.822.5953  
[citymgr@cityofarcata.org](mailto:citymgr@cityofarcata.org)

cc: Senator McGuire (via email) [senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov)  
Assemblymember Jim Wood (via fax) 707-445-6607  
Sara Rounds, League Public Affairs Program Manager (via email) [srounds@cacities.org](mailto:srounds@cacities.org)  
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