

CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



June 15, 2017

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Chair, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 319-2156

RE: SB 252 (Dodd) Well Water.

Notice of Opposition (*as amended 06/14/17*)

Dear Assemblyman Garcia:

The City of Merced is opposed to SB 252 (Dodd) because it is another unfunded mandate that will add an extra layer of bureaucracy to local government without improving transparency for our residents.

The City of Merced doesn't allow any new wells within City limits except City-owned municipal water wells. SB 252 essentially requires the City of Merced to issue itself a permit to install a new municipal water well, the ultimate in bureaucracy. We are moving forward with implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and our Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and this bill is only imposes more unnecessary regulations without writing a sunset clause for 2020.

This is another attempt at imposing CEQA-like requirements for issuing well permits without using CEQA. The meeting requirements in the bill could conceivably result in the denial of a much-needed water well in our community that only has groundwater as a drinking water source. A comment period would be a better way to obtain community input and allow the public an opportunity to air their concerns. The City already notifies the people surrounding a well site and mitigates the impact from wells.

We agree with our neighbors at Merced County, that when the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was implemented, it was done with the understanding that groundwater is best managed at the local level.

We are opposed to SB 252 as it applies to municipal water wells and the added layers of regulations it will impose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Dietz", written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Dietz, Acting City Manager
City of Merced

cc: Chief Consultant, Catherine Freeman, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks
and Wildlife Committee, fax 916-319-2196
Senator Anthony Cannella
Assemblyman Adam Gray
Stephen Qualls, Regional Public Affairs Manager
Erin Evans-Fudem, League of California Cities
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