

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
JANICE HAHN**

August 7, 2018

**Support for Amendments to Assembly Bill 1577 (Gipson) to Facilitate Leadership
from the County of Los Angeles Related to Overseeing and Dissolving Sativa
Water District**

Over the past few months, in response to a series of complaints associated with brown water flowing out of Sativa Water District’s (Sativa) pipes, the County of Los Angeles (County) has been intimately involved with efforts to facilitate short- and long-term strategies to address the insufficient fiscal management and oversight of Sativa, as well as significant deferred maintenance of Sativa’s aging infrastructure.

On April 24, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Directors of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to investigate the numerous water quality complaints raised by Sativa customers. The motion also directed County Counsel, in coordination with the directors of DPH and DPW, to explore solutions to ensure that appropriate management and governance are in place to provide water services in the Willowbrook and Compton service area for the short- and long-term future.

On June 12, 2018, the Board unanimously agreed to support Assembly Bill 1577 (Gipson), which would empower the California Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to assume authority over Sativa. Specifically, AB 1577 would require the Water Board to order Sativa to accept administrative and managerial services, including full

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management and control, from an administrator selected by the Water Board, which could help regain the public's trust and facilitate stability and oversight during this tumultuous period, as consolidation and other long-term strategies are pursued. Since then, on July 11, 2018, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Los Angeles County (LAFCO) formally initiated dissolution proceedings over Sativa.

After review and consultation, the Director of DPW has confirmed that DPW is able and willing to serve as the interim administrator as long as the proper immunities, fiscal resources, and a streamlined approval process for LAFCO and the County to select a long-term operator are authorized by the State. If DPW is tasked with this responsibility, its agents could immediately oversee a comprehensive audit of Sativa, put in immediate financial and operational controls, and facilitate the timely selection of a long-term service provider.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer and the legislative advocates in Sacramento to continue to support Assembly Bill 1577 (Gipson), work with the author's office to include amendments that effectuate the immediate fiscal and operational management and control over the Sativa Water District by the Los Angeles County (County) Department of Public Works as the interim administrator. The amendments should also clarify that the County would have appropriate immunities from liability, be provided with the appropriate financial resources from the State to serve as the interim administrator, and ensure that there is a streamlined pathway for the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Los Angeles and the County to select a long-term service provider in order to efficiently and sustainably improve the safety and water quality for the residents of the Willowbrook and Compton communities.

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