



August 30, 2023

The Honorable Tasha Boerner  
California State Assembly  
1021 "O" Street, Suite 4150  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL

Subject: Support for California Assembly Bill 399

Dear Assemblymember Boerner,

As the Mayor and on behalf of the City Council of the City of National City, I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill 399, the Water Ratepayers Protection Act of 2023, as currently written.

The County Water Authority Act currently provides for the formation of county water authorities and grants to those authorities specified powers with regards to providing water service. The County Water Authority Act provides two methods of excluding territory from any county water authority, one of which is that a public agency whose corporate area as a unit is part of a county water authority may obtain exclusion of the area by submitting to the electors within the public agency, at any general or special election, the proposition of excluding the public agency's corporate area from the county water authority. Existing law requires that, if a majority of the electors approve the proposition, specified actions take place to implement the exclusion.

AB 399 would additionally require the public entity to submit the proposition of excluding the public agency's corporate area from the county water authority to the electors within the territory of the county water authority. The bill would require the two elections to be separate; however, the bill authorizes both elections to run concurrently. The bill would require a majority vote for withdrawal in both elections for the withdrawal of the public agency from the territory of the county water authority.

The principle of allowing everyone affected to have a say in matters that concern them is foundational to a democratic society. Assembly Bill 399 aligns with this principle by recognizing the importance of incorporating everyone's vote before making significant decisions impacting the sourcing, distribution, and ultimately, the cost of water to the San Diego region. By giving everyone the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them, Assembly Bill 399 demonstrates a commitment to transparency, accountability, and fairness. This approach reenforces a sense of shared responsibility, investment, and ownership of outcomes.

National City supports Assembly Bill 399 because everyone impacted should have the opportunity to participate in deciding the future of the water supply to the San Diego region.

Sincerely,

  
Ron Morrison

Mayor

Cc: San Diego County Water Authority  
Sweetwater Authority

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