



## COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998  
Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422  
www.lacsd.org

GRACE ROBINSON HYDE  
Chief Engineer and General Manager

April 15, 2019

Boards of Directors  
County Sanitation Districts  
of Los Angeles County

Dear Directors:

### AB 1672 (Bloom): Labeling of Single-Use Wipes

I am writing to bring to your attention Assembly Bill (AB) 1672, as amended April 11, 2019, by Assemblymember Richard Bloom of Santa Monica. AB 1672 (Bloom), would set technical standards for the use of the term “flushable” when applied to single-use wipes and require the use of a “do not flush” logo when the wipes do not meet the technical standards for flushability. AB 1672 is intended to protect publicly owned sanitary sewer collection systems, including a jurisdictions’ local sewer systems and the Sanitation Districts sewer systems, from accumulations of wipes, which can cause sewage spills and lead to higher costs for operations and maintenance.

There are specialized types of single-use wipes for cleaning, personal hygiene, baby diapering, makeup removal and more, and people are choosing to use these wipes in ever-increasing numbers. Unfortunately, some of the manufacturers have chosen to market these products as “flushable,” based on the premise that it is more convenient to flush them than to place them in the trash. Regrettably, many consumers flush them indiscriminately, i.e. regardless of whether they are labeled flushable or not. However, even the so-called “flushable” products may cause problems for home plumbing or septic systems and downstream in the municipal sewer system. These products can accrue in pump stations, get hung up in motors, and some even make it to the headworks of the water reclamation plants that we own and operate. As mentioned, these wipes also can cause or contribute to sewage spills, which threaten water quality and public health, and lead to noncompliance with the Statewide Sanitary Sewer System Waste Discharge Requirements (a State-issued permit for sewer systems that prohibits all sewage spills, regardless of cause). There is no state oversight over these products, and this bill is needed to ensure that single-use wipe packages clearly communicate whether the product can be safely flushed down the drain or whether the wipes should not be flushed.

For these reasons, I urge you to consider taking a support position on AB 1672. The bill must be voted on by the full Assembly by May 31<sup>st</sup> in order to move to the Senate for consideration there. A copy

## EXHIBIT 1

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of the bill and a sample letter that can be sent to your Members of the State Assembly are attached for your information. Please contact me or Sharon Green of my staff if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Grace Robinson Hyde

GRH/sg  
Enclosures

cc: City Managers  
Public Works Directors