



City Council
311 Vernon Street
Roseville, California 95678

June 5, 2017

Assembly Member Bill Quirk, Chair
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, California 95814

Via Fax: (916) 319-2120

Re: SB 623 (Monning): Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
Position: OPPOSE IN CONCEPT – POTENTIAL STATE WATER TAX (WATER PUBLIC GOODS CHARGE)

Dear Assembly Member Quirk:

As the Mayor of Roseville, I am writing on behalf of the citizens to express our community's opposition in concept to a state water tax (water public goods charge) being levied upon local water utility bills, through a potential future amendment to Senate Bill (SB) 623 (Monning).

According to the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), Senator Monning recently stated that he plans to insert language into SB 623 that would establish a "ratepayer assessment" (i.e. a tax or fee) on water as one of two funding sources for the measure. We understand that SB 623 is likely to be referred to Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee in the coming days.

SB 623 seeks to solve longstanding water quality issues in California to ensure that everyone has safe drinking water in California which we believe is a critically important issue that does need to be addressed and we appreciate Senator Monning's work to help seek and fund solutions in this regard.

To be clear, the City of Roseville's concern is not on the intent of the proposed Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, but concern on how the proposed Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund could be funded.

Any ratepayer assessment (tax or public goods charge) language would make SB 623 completely unacceptable and would unfortunately move the City of Roseville to oppose SB 623, if such a future amendment is accepted.

Instead of a broadly applied tax or public goods charge on water utility ratepayers, we believe that there are other more appropriate funding alternatives that should be explored to help solve safe drinking water issues in California such as voter-approved water bonds, private donations and gifts (as per current language in SB 623) as well as re-prioritizing existing state funding to develop solutions for longstanding safe drinking water issues in California.

Again, we are deeply concerned about Senator Monning's recent statements to ACWA staff, and are opposed in concept to any state "ratepayer assessment" (i.e. a tax or fee) on local water utility bills.

Please contact Public Affairs Administrator, Sean Bigley at (916)-706-9580 or at sbigley@roseville.ca.us. if you or your staff have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Rohan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Susan Rohan,
Mayor

cc:

Assemblymember Brian Dahle, Vice Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

Honorable Members of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate

The Honorable Jim Nielsen, California State Senate

The Honorable Kevin Kiley, California State Assembly

Roseville City Council

Rob Jensen, Roseville City Manager

Chief Consultant Josh Tooker, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee

John Woodling, Executive Director, Regional Water Authority

Jason Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves and Son