

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** JUNE 27, 2012

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

**BY:** NATHAN HAMBURGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** OPPOSITION TO CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET TRAILER BILL 3940-001-1093 AMENDING THE STRUCTURE OF THE STATE'S WATER QUALITY BOARDS

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As is typical with the adoption of the State of California's Budget, various trailer bills are included that cover a variety of issues and topics. Just recently, City staff was made aware of one trailer bill that threatens to change the ability of municipal government representatives to serve on the State's Regional Water Quality Boards throughout the State by eliminating several seats on each board. Trailer Bill No. 3940-001-1093 alters the Board makeup by reducing the overall number of seats from nine to seven, thus removing the local government representative who can provide input on the various stormwater and water quality issues that are dealt with directly on the local level.

The municipal agencies throughout the State of California have continued to have to deal with water quality issues for the last handful of years without any true funding mechanism and are expected to continue these efforts even though it is an unfunded mandate effectively passed down from the federal government directly to local cities via the state. Since this particular trailer bill was discovered after the normally scheduled Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments meeting, each City will be considering a letter of opposition separately.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council oppose the California State Budget Trailer Bill 3940-001-1093 and authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City Council.

Attachment: Opposition Letter to Trailer Bill 3940-001-1093

June 27, 2012

Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Budget Trailer Bill No. 3940-001-1093 Regarding Reorganization and Consolidation of Regional Water Quality Control Boards - OPPOSE

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter is to inform you that the City of Agoura Hills opposes your proposed Trailer Bill No. 3940-001-1093. This proposed bill in your latest budget would revise the State Regional Water Quality Control Board makeup by reducing the nine member Boards to seven and amends the criteria necessary for appointment. These amendments will silence the voice of municipalities, who must address stormwater runoff and water quality-related issues on a daily basis.

Currently, the State Regional Water Quality Control Boards are comprised of the following nine members. One member from each of the following categories: water supply, conservation and production; irrigated agriculture, industrial water use, municipal government, county government, nongovernmental organization associated with recreation, fish or wildlife; and three members not specifically associated with any of the foregoing categories (two of whom shall have special competence in areas related to water quality problems).

The current legislation enacted in 2003 by Senator Kehul was drafted to ensure that the "Municipal Government Member" would be filled by a mayor or an elected city council member. This action was taken to ensure that the viewpoints and concerns of municipalities were represented because many of the Board's regulations directly and indirectly affect municipalities.

This bill eliminates the municipal representation and eliminates the balance that is needed on the State Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Therefore, the City respectfully opposes the proposed Budget Trailer Bill No. 3940-001-1093. Additionally, I urge you to strike this specific trailer bill from the proposed budget and allow the State Regional Water Quality Control Board membership categories to remain unchanged.

Respectfully,

John M. Edelston, Mayor

cc: Assembly Budget Committee Members  
Senate Budget Committee Members