

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, integrated regional water management was originally intended to be an opportunity for disparate communities, water agencies, and interests to cooperate regionally to solve intractable water and resources issues and to prioritize and implement a region's water resources needs; and

WHEREAS, the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act of 2002 was enacted into law, and provides that regional water management groups are authorized to prepare and adopt an integrated regional water management plan to identify and advance regional collaboration and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, an integrated regional water management plan is intended to coordinate the activities of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to support water supply reliability, water quality improvements, and natural resource protection in a defined region; and the plan typically includes a list of projects that will help to achieve the goals and objectives established in the plan, and it is also required to include an identification and consideration of the water-related needs of disadvantaged communities within the boundaries of the plan; and

WHEREAS, general obligation water bonds approved by voters, including Proposition 84 and Proposition 1, have provided funding through the Department of Water Resources to regional water management groups to assist in funding locally-developed and approved integrated regional water management projects; and

WHEREAS, regional water management groups throughout the state have proactively encouraged the participation of nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities in the integrated regional water management planning and grant program to provide broad community support and credibility to the implementation of grant-funded projects, which has resulted in more collaborative solutions to water challenges within regions; and

WHEREAS, administration of the integrated regional water management program has created challenges and delays of payment for implementation of plans at the regional level that threaten the success of regional programs and continued participation of all interested stakeholders, including smaller nonprofit organizations, disadvantaged communities, and watershed groups; and


WHEREAS, State Senator Ricardo Lara has introduced Senate Bill (SB) 208 in the California Legislature to improve opportunities for disadvantaged communities and nonprofit organizations to continue meaningful participation in the integrated regional water management program; and

WHEREAS, SB 208 would provide up to 50 percent advanced payment of an integrated regional water management plan grant award to a project sponsor that is a nonprofit organization, disadvantaged community, or assisting a disadvantaged community; and


WHEREAS, SB 208 contains important accountability and reporting provisions to protect the state's fiscal interests while balancing the need to ensure appropriate cash-flow for small organizations to allow continued participation in the integrated regional water management program; and

WHEREAS, the City should support SB 208 in order to remove administrative challenges and hurdles, and allow for the continued meaningful participation of all regional interests in the integrated regional water management program process.

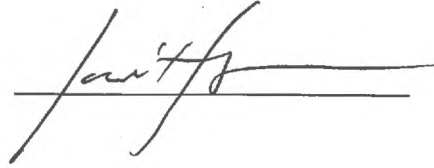
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 208 (Lara), to improve opportunities for disadvantaged communities and nonprofit organizations to continue meaningful participation in the integrated regional water management program.



PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



MAY 22 2015