



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

**We write to urge your signature on Assembly Bill 1577, by Assemblymember Mike Gipson.**

On April 24, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the County's Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Public Works (DPW) to investigate and address the water quality complaints of brown water raised by customers of the Sativa Los Angeles County Water District (Sativa) earlier in the year when Sativa flushed its pipes after an extended period without proper maintenance. Concurrently, the Board directed County Counsel to explore solutions to ensure that appropriate management and governance were put in place to provide water services in the Willowbrook and Compton service area for the short and long term.

Sativa has been aware of its infrastructure challenges for some time. In 2016, Sativa was referred to DPW for technical assistance in seeking grant dollars, specifically through the Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, to upgrade their aging infrastructure. However, Sativa made no effort to partner with DPW to explore opportunities. **Longstanding deficiencies in Sativa's fiscal and operational management has plagued our most vulnerable communities with foul-smelling brown water and, to date, Sativa has failed to offer any solutions to respond to the outcry.**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has partnered with local, state and federal officials, along with the Los Angeles Local Agency Formation Commission, to craft a legislative remedy: AB 1577 would facilitate the process by which Los Angeles County could assume interim administrative authority over Sativa and ensure the full transfer of authority to a permanent administrator that can provide responsible and effective long-term management over the supply of safe drinking water.

In the interim, DPW would supervise the delivery of water to the affected customers while reviewing current system operations, maintenance and financial procedures with a focus on optimizing water quality. Affected residents would have immediate and 24/7 access to DPW for emergencies and the opportunity to provide feedback on the water service.

The California Safe Drinking Water Act (Act) currently provides for the operation of public water systems and authorizes the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to order consolidation with a receiving water system if a public water system or a state small water system serving a disadvantaged community consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water. The Act also authorizes the Water Board to contract with an administrator to provide administrative and managerial services to a designated water system for the purposes of providing affordable, safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities and preventing fraud, waste and abuse. The Water Board has the authority to order the designated public water system to accept those administrative and managerial services, including full management and control, if sufficient funding is available and if the Water Board finds that consolidation with another system or extension of service from another system is either not appropriate or not technically and economically feasible.

Consistent with existing State Law, AB 1577 would increase the reliability of State and local water supplies with the appropriate infrastructure, ensuring that the community's faith in its drinking water is restored and that safe resources will exist in the long-term for the disadvantaged communities of Willowbrook and Compton.

We respectfully urge your signature on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



**MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
Supervisor, Second District  
County of Los Angeles



**JANICE HAHN**  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles



**NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN**  
Member, Forty-Fourth District  
United States Congress



**STEVEN BRADFORD**  
Senator, Thirty-Fifth District  
California State Senate



**MIKE A. GIPSON**  
Assemblymember, Sixty-Fourth District  
California State Assembly