



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 577 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Caballero:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I offer our support for your Assembly Bill 577 relating to the definition of a disadvantaged community. RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of our member counties.

“Disadvantaged community” (DAC) is currently defined in California Water Code Section 79505.5 as a community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI. This definition applies to various programs, including the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1 of 2014), as well as determines eligibility for funds from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account. AB 577 would expand the definition of a DAC to include a community with an annual per capita income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual per capita income.

RCRC believes AB 577 would increase the opportunity for many rural communities to compete for Proposition 1 funds as most of these communities are truly disadvantaged. These communities have limited economic resources of their own and are dependent on state assistance for a variety of important water-related projects.

RCRC appreciates your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to AB 577 being enacted into law. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or mwarmerdam@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,

MARY-ANN WARMERDAM
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic
Materials Committee

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