



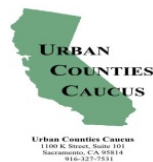
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June 4, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Hill  
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 543 (Campos) – Oppose [As Amended May 24, 2013]**

Dear Senator Hill:

On behalf the Public Works Coalition members listed below, we write to respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 543 (Campos), relating to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Public Works Coalition (PWC) is a broad alliance of public agencies, collectively representing nearly every school, county and special district in California. We have a unique and critical perspective on CEQA as both project proponents for public works projects and as "lead agencies" conducting CEQA review.

AB 543 would require a lead agency to translate specified CEQA notices and summaries of any negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report when a community of non-English speaking people comprises at least 25% of the population within a lead agency's jurisdiction and the project is proposed to be located at or near an area where the group of non-English speaking people comprises at least 25% of the residents in that area.

We believe that this issue is best addressed at the local level as public agencies are better suited to identify and address the needs of their constituents. CEQA documents, including the summaries, can be both lengthy and highly technical depending on the project. The state mandate contained in AB 543 would impose additional costs on public agencies that do not have staff dedicated to translation or personnel who are capable of accurately translating technical CEQA documents. Furthermore, the difficulty translating these documents into languages other than English, particularly languages with varying dialects, opens the door to future litigation.

Therefore, we must, regretfully, oppose AB 543 as it creates a new mandate, would increase costs, delay vital infrastructure projects and open up public agencies to potential new avenues for litigation.

Sincerely,

Association of California Healthcare Districts  
Association of California Water Agencies  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
California Association of School Business Officials  
California Special Districts Association  
California State Association of Counties  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District  
Urban Counties Caucus

CC: The Honorable Nora Campos  
Honorable Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Joanne Roy, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Tiffany Roberts, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown