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April 1, 2024

The Honorable Juan Carrillo Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government 1020 N Street, Room 157 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2257 (Wilson): Local government: property-related water and sewer fees and assessments: remedies. SUPPORT

Assemblymember Carrillo:

The San Gabriel Valley Water Association (SGVWA) represents municipal utilities, California Public Utilities Commission regulated utilities, water districts, and not-for-profit mutual water companies that supply water to nearly two million San Gabriel Valley residents and businesses. The SGVWA is pleased to announce its support of Assembly Bill 2257 (Wilson). This bill would allow public agencies to adopt procedures for submitting and considering public comments regarding proposed water and wastewater rates and assessments.

Public water agencies rely on service rates and assessments to fund their operations and investments to provide a consistent and reliable water supply. Unfortunately, the increase in Proposition 218 litigation makes it difficult for agencies to pass fair and reasonable rates to cover their costs.

Assembly Bill 2257 aims to create an exhaustion of administrative remedies procedure, which public agencies can adopt as part of their rate-setting process. The process would require public agencies to provide their board and members of the public with written responses to each comment received during the public administrative process before an agency can act on changes to rates or assessments. In the event of litigation, the relevant evidence would be limited to documents prepared by the public agency or submitted to the public agency during the public administrative process.

The Honorable Juan Carrillo April 1, 2024 Page 2

Our Association supports AB 2257 as it is important legislation that seeks to promote transparency and offers all stakeholders the opportunity to resolve issues in a timely manner and avoid costly litigation.

Sincerely, Honda 6 Delen

Lynda Noriega President, Board of Directors San Gabriel Valley Water Association