

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6510
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 317 (Hurtado): Wastewater surveillance
Notice of Support – Orange County Sanitation District**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

I write today on behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) to express our support for Senate Bill 317 (Hurtado) which would expand wastewater surveillance efforts across the State of California. This bill is a crucial step towards enhancing public health through early disease detection and preparedness for emerging health threats.

SB 317 would require each county to establish and maintain at least one wastewater surveillance site to monitor for pathogens and public health indicators. OC San currently estimates the operational impact to be as high as 2.5 hours per week of staff time (for one location) to collect and ship samples to the State laboratory.

Expanding the California Surveillance of Wastewaters (Cal-SuWers) network, which OC San is a current partner of, to include all counties, ensures that communities benefit from critical early warning systems.

The sharing of wastewater surveillance data with healthcare providers, as proposed in this bill, would allow for timely intervention, reducing the burden of disease outbreaks and improving public health outcomes when diseases are detected. Ensuring state reimbursement for costs mandated by this initiative will provide counties with the necessary resources to implement and maintain these vital surveillance systems. As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, wastewater surveillance plays an important role in tracking public health trends.

By investing in a comprehensive wastewater monitoring system, California can continue to be a leader in public health innovation and disease prevention. For these reasons, OC San supports SB 317. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, Director of Communications, at (714) 593-7581 or via email at JCabral@ocsan.gov.

Sincerely,



Ryan P. Gallagher
Board Chairman

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