

Orange County Sanitation District

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July 8, 2020

Submitted Online via CA Leg Advocacy Portal

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1672 (Bloom): Support

Dear Senator Allen:

The Orange County Sanitation District (Sanitation District, OCSD) is pleased to support AB 1672 (Bloom). The Sanitation District provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County, California. OCSD's primary mission is to protect public health and the environment through its services. We urge the committee to move Assembly Bill (AB) 1672, a straightforward bill that will encourage pollution prevention through clear and consistent consumer information.

AB 1672 would establish labeling requirements for wet wipes packaging so that Californians will know how to properly dispose of these popular consumer products. In recent years, wet wipes have become widely available as they are designed for a variety of daily household purposes. Despite voluntary industry labeling guidelines, proper disposal information is inconsistent on wipes product labels, and some wipes are advertised as "flushable", which can lead to confusion about what products can be flushed down the toilet and which are instead intended for the trashcan. Because many wet wipes are made from plastic, they are not compatible with sewer systems and infrastructure. Improperly flushing these incredibly durable products results in them getting caught in pipes or accumulating with fats, oils, and grease and becoming larger obstructions that cause costly backups and sometimes result in raw sewage overflows. Further down the sewer line, wipes tend to weave together and create giant rags which get stuck in pump systems and motors and damage expensive public infrastructure.

AB 1672 would ensure wet wipes packaging clearly communicates the appropriate disposal method for the products not intended to be flushed, and further requires wipes manufacturers to conduct education and outreach about the "Do Not Flush" symbol and label notice. This straightforward bill has been mutually agreed to by the wipes manufacturers, wastewater, and product stewardship representatives. If enacted, it will establish the strongest wet wipe labeling requirements in the country.



Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling



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For these reasons, the Orange County Sanitation District is pleased to support AB 1672 and we respectfully request your support when the bill is heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, OCSD Administration Manager at (714) 593-7581 or via email at JCabral@ocsd.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David John Shawver
Board Chairman Chair

cc: Assemblymember Richard Bloom (andrew.aldama@asm.ca.gov)
Jessica Gauger, California Association of Sanitation Agencies (jgauger@casaweb.org)
Orange County Legislative Delegation
Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors

Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.



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