

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles, with its ownership of its own Department of Water and Power, has a long and deep understanding of the need for local water sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, access to clean, affordable drinking water has become a widespread issue, as evidenced by water system problems that have arisen in Flint, Michigan, and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, climate change is exacerbating problems with water quality, availability and affordability with more than one million Californians lacking access to clean water; and

WHEREAS, challenges across California in providing clean, safe and affordable drinking water to all people, including low-income and minority communities, must be met through more inclusion and leadership from these affected communities on the local boards that govern water; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 625 (Bradford) has been introduced which would effectively wipe out such a democratically-elected local water board, called Central Basin Municipal Water District in Southeast Los Angeles, and by doing, would disenfranchise two million people; and

WHEREAS, SB 625 seeks to address long-standing local water management infrastructure failures without any opportunity for the communities in the region to help shape a long-term solution that will directly impact them and denies the public its right to elect their own accountable representatives; and

WHEREAS, numerous reputable social and environmental justice organizations have gone on the record in public opposition to SB 625, including, Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA, California Environmental Justice Alliance, Sierra Club, Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica Mountains, SoCal 350, 350 South Bay Los Angeles, Feminists in Action (Indivisible), and Rooted in Resistance; and

WHEREAS, a proper local democratic process that actively engages community members is essential for achieving transparency and accountability, given the confusing nature of a water system with over 100 different public and private entities tasked with delivering water to LA County communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to SB 625 (Bradford), which would dissolve the Central Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors and require the Water Replenishment District of Southern California to act as its receiver.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 7th District

JUL 1 2020