September 7, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1263 (Portantino): Signature Request

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) is the sponsor of SB 1263 (Portantino) and respectfully requests your signature on this important legislation. CASA is an association of California wastewater agencies engaged in advancing the recycling of wastewater into usable water, maximizing beneficial use of biosolids, generating renewable energy, and producing other valuable resources.

SB 1263 directs the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to develop, adopt, and implement a Statewide Microplastics Strategy (Strategy). The goals of the Strategy are to increase understanding of the scale and risks of microplastic materials on the marine environment and to identify potential solutions for dealing with microplastic pollution.

Microplastic pollution has been the subject of great public interest in recent years, in particular due to research reporting that microplastics have been detected in almost all sources of water. Given the widespread nature and scope of the problem, wastewater agencies and other stakeholders are evaluating possible future approaches and solutions for dealing with it. Toward those ends, SB 1263 would allow the OPC to adopt and implement policies addressing microplastics that include the development of important scientific methodologies for measuring and quantifying sources of microplastic pollution, research and evaluation of source control options, and recommendations for additional research or policy changes that may be needed.

The Strategy would be required to be completed and submitted to the Legislature by December 31, 2021, with a follow up report to the Legislature on the implementation of the Strategy and further recommendations for policy changes or additional research by December 31, 2025. We believe that the development of the Strategy is consistent and complimentary to the work already underway at the OPC. Furthermore, we appreciate how this legislation takes a measured and scientific approach to dealing with a substantial pollution issue.

Microplastics are ubiquitous in our environment, yet at present, there is insufficient data to move forward with a broad solution to the problem. The development of a comprehensive Strategy as contemplated in SB 1263 is needed to adequately characterize the problem, measure the risks, identify the sources, and ultimately recommend policy changes to address the issue.

For these reasons, CASA is pleased to sponsor and support SB 1263, and we respectfully urge your signature on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gauger
Director of Legislative Advocacy

CC: The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Deborah Halberstadt, Executive Director, California Ocean Protection Council