

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814



Los Angeles Office
205 S. Broadway
Suite 402
Los Angeles
CA 90012

Re: SB 1318 (Wolk) - Support

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Dear Senator Hertzberg

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is writing to convey our strong support for SB 1318, which would secure safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities that lack access to basic services. We commend the bill's efforts to ensure that cities and special districts address wastewater and drinking water service deficiencies prior to or concomitantly with, extending the same services to other areas beyond the city or special district sphere of influence.

CPFA is a statewide, policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. We envision a healthy and food-secure California where all Californians have the physical, social and economic access to the foods necessary for a nutritious diet and where healthful foods are the predominant, affordable options. This includes access to healthful beverages, specifically water

Some disadvantaged communities struggle to provide an adequate supply of drinking water. The reasons for this are numerous, but should not stand in the way of safe drinking water access. SB 1318 takes a critical step toward improving water access and allowing for the promotion of water consumption in all communities. While a handful of local governments are making efforts to expand services to their neighbors, many are not. And for that there is no excuse. SB 1318 offers a tactful policy solution to ensure unincorporated communities are included in planning processes and drinking water deficiencies are addressed. Water is a human right that no California resident should go without.

When cities and districts and other service providers are planning for, designing, marketing, and creating new development, they must ensure that the families who, for decades, have resided on their peripheries and fueled their economic engines through labor and commerce, have basic services. Such an approach will secure safe drinking water to tens of thousands of Californians. For these reasons, CFPA supports SB 1318 and respectfully urges your "Aye" vote on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hector Gutierrez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hector Gutierrez
Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of low income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food.