



June 28, 2019

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5144  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) – Local Government Financing - SUPPORT**

RUSSELL KAGEHIRO  
President  
Division V

TIM MAGGIORE  
Vice President  
Division III

LARRY ENOS, JR.  
Director  
Division I

MARK MAGGIORE  
Director  
Division II

FELIX MUSCO  
Director  
Division IV

CHARLES TUSO  
Director  
Division VI

JEFF BROWN  
Director  
Division VII

RICK GILMORE  
General Manager  
Secretary

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID), I am writing to support ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry), which will create a new voter approved mechanism with a vote threshold of 55% to approve local general obligation (G.O.) bonds and special taxes for certain affordable housing and public infrastructure projects. BBID is a multi-county special district, serving parts of Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin Counties. The District provides reliable, efficient water, serving 160 agricultural customers and more than 20,000 residents of the Mountain House community.

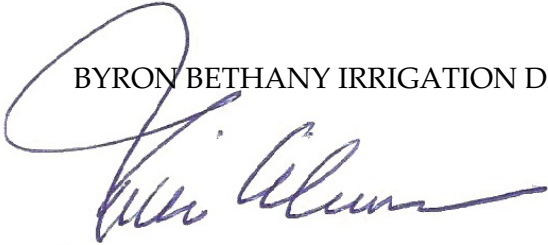
ACA 1 targets the urgent needs of local communities. This measure gives local governments a more realistic financing option to fund an increase in the supply of affordable housing, and to address the numerous local public infrastructure challenges cities, counties, and special districts are facing. The California Constitution currently requires a two-thirds vote at the local level for both G.O. bonds and special taxes, regardless of the purpose a city, county, or special district is seeking those funds.

ACA 1 will provide mechanisms for cities, counties, and special districts to have a viable financing tool to help address important community needs for affordable housing and public infrastructure. Local voters would still need to overwhelmingly support a bond or special tax (with 55%) in order for it to be approved, thus protecting voters' control over how their tax dollars are spent. The bill also provides specific requirements for voter protection, public notice, and financial accountability.

If approved by the Legislature, ACA 1 would then have to achieve voter approval during a statewide election. This would further solidify the fact that voters support this change. Californians want to have an impact on their communities, because they know best what their families and neighbors need.

For these reasons, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District is pleased to support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BYRON BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT  


Rick Gilmore  
General Manager

cc: Anthony Tannehill, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association  
[advocacy@cdda.net]