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CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

March 14, 1991

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Law and Legislation Committee
Sacramento, California

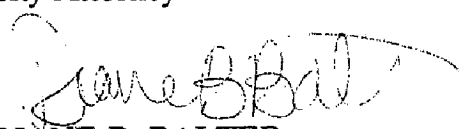
SUBJECT: SB 229 (Boatwright) and SB 1168 (Marks)
Relating to Water Matters

Honorable Members in Session:

Attached for your information are letters from the office of Ken Emanuels and Associates to Senators Boatwright and Marks regarding the City's position of opposition to the above two legislative bills. These bills and others will be discussed by Mr. Emanuels at the March 20, 1991 Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

SHARON SIEDORF CARDENAS,
City Attorney


DIANE B. BALTER
Deputy City Attorney

DBB/jms
Attachments

Law and Legislation
March 20, 1991
All Districts

**KENNETH
EMANUELS**
AND ASSOCIATES
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

March 13, 1991

Senator Daniel E. Boatwright
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Re: City of Sacramento Opposition to SB 229.
Hearing: March 19, Senate Agriculture and Water Committee.

Dear Dan,

I regret to inform you that my client, the City of Sacramento, has reviewed your SB 229 and determined to oppose the measure. SB 229 mandates all local water providers to require, as a condition of new water service on or after January 1, 1992, that a suitable water meter shall be installed.

The City of Sacramento has for many years required water metering of all commercial and industrial water users but not residential users.

Installation of meters on new water service connections is the least onerous and least costly form of phasing-in the use of water meters.

Nevertheless, the City believes that the choice of how water conservation is implemented should be made by local officials based upon individual community conditions. In past years, Sacramento has achieved significant reductions in water use (15-25%) by both mandatory and voluntary conservation programs and the threat of penalties and fines. Savings of at least this magnitude will again be required this year.

This city, like all other communities in the state, is prepared to meet fully its water conservation obligations as set forth by the Governor or the State Water Resources Control Board for the coming dry season. Effective water conservation can and will be achieved with or without residential metering.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Emanuels

KE:kc

cc: Senate Agriculture and Water Committee

KENNETH
EMANUELS
AND ASSOCIATES
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

March 14, 1991

Senator Milton Marks
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Re: City of Sacramento Opposition to SB 1168

Dear Senator,

On behalf of my client, the City of Sacramento, I regret to inform you that the City has reviewed your SB 1168 and determined to oppose the measure.

Sec. 7 of the bill requires that all water suppliers in the state shall require, as a condition of new water service on and after January 1, 1992 and as a condition of any water service on and after January 1, 1994, that a suitable water meter be installed.

The installation of water meters on existing residences is very expensive and not cost effective. If the objective of AB 1168 is water conservation, there are other less expensive alternatives.

In Sacramento County, studies have demonstrated that if one assumes a 20% reduction in water use as the result of metering in the Sacramento area, river flows (i.e. water available to downstream users) would increase by only 5,700 acre-feet annually. This is because approximately half of all water used in the Sacramento area is returned to the American or Sacramento River systems. An increase of 5,700 acre-feet translates to a cost of over \$3,160 per acre-foot, based on meter installation costs of \$500 per residence. The current market water price in Sacramento is \$125 per acre-foot.

The cost to the City of Sacramento to retrofit existing residences with water meters would be in excess of \$66 million. Factoring in the costs for reading meters, maintenance and replacement, a retrofit program such as that mandated by SB 1168 would require a 59% rate increase; the City's water operating budget would rise to \$26.8 million from \$16.9 million.

Of course, I would be pleased to discuss our opposition to SB 1168 with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Emanuels

cc: Members, City Council
Walter J. Slips, City Manager
Mel Johnson, Public Works Director
Senate Agriculture and Water Committee