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**Introduced by Senator Hernandez  
(Coauthor: Senator Liu)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cristina Garcia and Rendon)

February 26, 2015

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An act to add Section 4730.68 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to public sanitation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 485, as introduced, Hernandez. County of Los Angeles: sanitation districts.

The County Sanitation District Act authorizes a sanitation district to acquire, construct, and complete certain works, property, or structures necessary or convenient for sewage collection, treatment, and disposal.

This bill would authorize specified sanitation districts in the County of Los Angeles, to acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and furnish facilities for the diversion, management, and treatment of stormwater and dry weather runoff, the discharge of the water to the stormwater drainage system, and the beneficial use of the water.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the County of Los Angeles.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
- 2 the following:
- 3 (a) The county sanitation districts of Los Angeles County
- 4 (sanitation districts) were established in 1923 under the County

1 Sanitation District Act (Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 4700)  
2 of Part 3 of Division 5 of the Health and Safety Code).

3 (b) The sanitation districts provide regional solid waste  
4 management and wastewater collection and treatment services for  
5 5.5 million people in 78 cities and unincorporated communities.

6 (c) Eighty-four cities in Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles  
7 County Flood Control District, and Los Angeles County  
8 unincorporated areas are all regulated under a permit for the  
9 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), the most recent  
10 of which was adopted by the California Regional Water Quality  
11 Control Board, Los Angeles Region, in December 2012.

12 (d) The City of Long Beach is regulated under its own permit  
13 for its MS4, the most recent of which was adopted by the regional  
14 board in February 2014.

15 (e) The MS4 is a large interconnected system that encompasses  
16 over 3,000 square miles, and is controlled in large part by the Los  
17 Angeles County Flood Control District and used by multiple cities  
18 along with Los Angeles County.

19 (f) The Los Angeles County Flood Control District is primarily  
20 focused on operation and maintenance of the larger, downstream  
21 MS4 infrastructure into which the smaller, upstream city MS4  
22 infrastructure discharges.

23 (g) This extensive system conveys stormwater and  
24 non-stormwater across municipal boundaries where it is  
25 commingled within the MS4 and then discharged to receiving  
26 water bodies, such as the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River.

27 (h) It will be necessary for the cities, Los Angeles County Flood  
28 Control District, and Los Angeles County to spend millions of  
29 dollars per year to comply with the Los Angeles Region MS4  
30 permits.

31 (i) The Los Angeles Region MS4 permits prohibit the discharge  
32 of non-stormwater discharges to MS4 (unless authorized under  
33 another permit or specifically exempted from the MS4 permit),  
34 and one management technique that can be effective in cleaning  
35 up non-stormwater discharges is to divert dry weather runoff into  
36 the sanitary sewer system, if sewer and treatment plant capacity  
37 are available and other regulatory requirements are met.

38 (j) Many of the cities, the Los Angeles County Flood Control  
39 District, and Los Angeles County are preparing watershed  
40 management plans and enhanced watershed management plans in