



March 29, 2021

The Honorable Richard Bloom
State Capitol Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 818 (Bloom) Solid waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes.
Notice of Support. (As introduced 2/1/21)

Dear Assembly Member Bloom:

The Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities (Division), representing 86 cities in the county, supports your AB 818 (Bloom), which establishes standardized labeling for single-use wet wipes to provide clear and consistent consumer information about what products are not safe to flush.

The widespread availability of both flushable and non-flushable wipes and lack of clear and consistent labeling leads to consumer confusion about how to properly dispose of these products. Consumers frequently use the toilet to dispose of wipes used for babies, cosmetics, surface cleaning, and disinfecting, even when they are the cause of costly sewer clogs.

Since Governor Newsom's Stay-At-Home order, [Executive Order N-33-20](#), enacted on March 19, 2020, a shortage of toilet paper has resulted in people turning to baby wipes, and flushing them. As a result, local officials reported a large influx of non-flushable debris in sewer systems, causing costly and dangerous maintenance. For over a decade, wipes have been one of the leading causes of residential and public sewer systems clogs, spills and equipment problems, costing California wastewater operators at least \$50 million a year. These clogs also result in environmental damages when sewers overflow and when wipes shed plastic microfibers, causing microplastic particles in wastewater effluent. Following the onset of the statewide Stay-At-Home order, agencies that have never experienced wipes-related sewer overflows have now reported their first wipes related clogs and sewer spills. Several agencies have reported total equipment failures when their pump systems are overwhelmed with wipes, costing them \$60K per pump. Agencies are reporting increases in maintenance intervals to unclog heavy equipment like pumps and lift stations, and to clear sewer lines with high powered jets. The problems were so pronounced that on March 17, 2020, the State Water Resources Board issued a public advisory to stop flushing wipes.

To solve these problems, AB 818 would require certain single use wet wipes to be clearly labeled with "DO NOT FLUSH" and a related symbol. AB 818 would also establish the California Consumer Education and Outreach Program to ensure the

**2020-21 OFFICERS AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT
BLANCA PACHECO
DOWNEY

VICE PRESIDENT
JAMES BOZAJIAN
CALABASAS

SECRETARY/TREASURER
ANDREW CHOU
DIAMOND BAR

STATE LEAGUE DIRECTOR
ANA MARIA QUINTANA
BELL

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
JESS TALAMANTES
BURBANK

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ARROYO VERDUGO JPA
DIANA MAHMUD
SOUTH PASADENA

GATEWAY CITIES COG
STEVE CROFT
LAKEWOOD

LAS VIRGENES-MALIBU COG
KAREN FARRER
MALIBU

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY COG
MARSHA MCLEAN
SANTA CLARITA

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COG
MARGARET CLARK
ROSEMead

SOUTH BAY CITIES COG
BEA DIERINGER
ROLLING HILLS

WESTSIDE CITIES COG
SUE HIMMELRICH
SANTA MONICA

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
JOHN WICKHAM
LOS ANGELES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JENNIFER QUAN

public understands they should not flush wipes and requires manufacturers to participate in a collection study, conducted in collaboration with wastewater agencies, to gain an understanding of consumer behavior on premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes.

For the many reasons described above, the Los Angeles County Division supports AB 818 (Bloom).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blanca Pacheco', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Blanca Pacheco
President
Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities