



**California Special
Districts Association**

Districts Stronger Together

May 30, 2014

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Chair, Assembly PER&SS Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1219 (Torres) – Support [As amended 04/01/14]

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA), representing over 1,000 special districts and affiliate organizations throughout the state, is pleased to support Senate Bill 1219 (Torres), related to the Public Employees' Retirement Law. CSDA represents all types of special districts, which provide millions of Californians with core local services such as water, fire protection, healthcare, and recreation and parks every day. SB 1219 will provide helpful clarification for retired public employees who may seek to represent their community by serving as an elected official on a special district board.

We believe the passage of the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) created several unintended consequences that require attention. SB 1219 would, amongst other provisions, help clarify that CalPERS and "37 Act" agency retirees would not jeopardize their pension benefits, as specified, by serving in an elected capacity for a local agency.

SB 1219 could prove critically important to the governance structure of local government agencies. Without the correction provided in the measure, potential local leaders may be dissuaded from serving in an elected capacity because of the direct, personal financial consequences. This could fundamentally change the composition of the elected legislative bodies representing California's neighborhoods, communities, and local regions.

For these reasons, CSDA supports SB 1219 and welcomes the opportunity to discuss our position with your office. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Holzem
Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Norma Torres
Members, Assembly PER&SS Committee
Karon Green, Chief Consultant, Assembly PER&SS Committee
Terry Mast, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

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A proud California Special Districts Alliance partner

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