

# MONTEREY COUNTY



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March 13, 2023

The Honorable Dave Cortese  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 6630  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

**Re: SB 642 (Cortese) Hazardous materials: enforcement: county counsel. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Cortese:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Senate Bill (SB) 642. This bill will help protect the public from pollution and deter unfair business practices by giving county counsels full civil enforcement authority over hazardous materials violations.

Health and Safety Code section 25182 provides that civil actions under the Hazardous Waste Control Act may be brought by the city attorney, district attorney, Attorney General, or the “county attorney,” including county counsels. However, several related enforcement statutes necessary for fully exercising this authority do not apply to county counsels. As a result, county counsels have jurisdiction in most hazardous waste violation cases but generally do not bring suit because of their incomplete enforcement authority.

SB 642 seeks to follow through on the Legislature’s intent to add another hazardous waste enforcement option by granting county counsels complete civil enforcement authority over hazardous waste violations.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey strongly supports your measure SB 642. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey’s Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Gabrielle Meindl, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Scott Seekats, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Catherine Freeman, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)