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May 18, 2022

The Honorable Tasha Boerner Horvath
Assemblymember, 76th District
State Capitol, Room 4150
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1672 (Boerner Horvath) Public swimming pools: lifeguards.
(As Amended April 21, 2022) - Letter of Support**

Dear Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath:

The City of Vista would like to convey our full support for Assembly Bill 1672, which would authorize a beach lifeguard to provide lifeguard service at a public swimming pool or aquatic center if the lifeguard has current certification from the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA). A resolution inclusive of findings indicating a staffing shortage and need for USLA lifeguards must be passed by the legislative body of the local agency in order to utilize this authority. Further, to ensure lifeguard certification is consistent with the training and qualifications required by the certification from the American Red Cross and the YMCA, beach lifeguards must receive the appropriate "crossover" training to pool and aquatic center lifeguard service by personnel certified by a national training agency.

The City owns and operates the Wave Waterpark, which is in high demand during the summer season, has off season pool use by members of the community, and offers many aquatics programs. Due to lifeguard staffing shortages, programming has been reduced. Although the City is actively recruiting for additional lifeguards, the City has had difficulty in staffing positions to a level where full programming can be offered to the community.

Local beach lifeguards have the USLA certification necessary for beach lifeguarding, but they cannot work in City-operated pools because they do not have the American Red Cross or YMCA lifeguard certifications necessary for pool lifeguarding. The Wave Waterpark's lifeguards are currently certified through StarGuard Elite and believes the USLA certification to be equivalent to the American Red Cross, YMCA, and StarGuard Elite certifications with appropriate "crossover" training.

For these reasons, the City of Vista supports AB 1672.

For questions or to coordinate a further discussion, please contact Imelda M. Huerta, Assistant to the City Manager at (760) 643-5208 or ihuerta@cityofvista.com.

Sincerely,

Judy Ritter
Mayor

cc: Senator Pat Bates, cynthia.bryant@sen.ca.gov; max.wernher@sen.ca.gov
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