

County Executive  
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and  
Legislative Officer  
Elisia De Bord



## County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors  
Phillip R. Serna, District 1  
Patrick Kennedy, District 2  
Rich Desmond, District 3  
Rosario Rodriguez, District 4  
Patrick Hume, District 5

April 4, 2025

Assemblymember Dawn Addis  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 4120  
Sacramento, CA 95

Assembly Avelino Valencia  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5510  
Sacramento, CA 9581

Re: AB 1288 (Addis): Registered Environmental Health Specialists. Support

Dear Assembly Members Addis and Valencia:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support your AB 1288, which will expand the Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) trainee pool and enhance and lengthen the training period used to prepare trainees to pass the state exam.

It has become challenging to recruit and retain REHS in Sacramento County. These specialists play a vital role in safeguarding our community through programs and activities, such as food safety, drinking water safety, body art inspections, onsite wastewater treatment system installation/repair, pool safety, and medical waste management.

Currently, certification for local REHS is administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The CDPH program ensures that a certified REHS has met adequate science education, training and experience requirements and has passed a comprehensive state examination. Limited examination offerings and strict time limitations governing how often a trainee may take the exam have resulted in trainees being reassigned or released – even if they have excellent job performance and wish to continue to pursue a career as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. The current state exam passage rate averages around 60 percent. AB 1288 is critical to maintain high quality, community-responsive environmental public health programs in our community.

For these reasons, Sacramento County supports AB 1288. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or [deborde@sacounty.gov](mailto:deborde@sacounty.gov).

Sincerely,

Elisia De Bord  
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer