



County of Monterey

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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Dawn Addis
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1288 (Addis) Registered environmental health specialists – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Addis:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing to support your measure AB 1288. Existing law provides for the certification of registered environmental health specialists by the State Department of Public Health and defines the scope of practice for registered environmental health professionals to include a variety of areas. Additionally, current law authorizes an environmental health specialist trainee to work under the supervision of a registered environmental health specialist for a period not to exceed 3 years.

This bill would extend these to include body art and medical waste in the scope of practice of registered environmental health specialists and would extend that period of supervision to not exceed 5 years while making the State Environmental Health Director serve as the executive officer of the committee.

The County of Monterey uses registered environmental health specialists to help maintain public health by preventing contamination, ensuring safe food and water, enforcing emergency response and site mitigation, and solid waste management. Ensuring public health and environmental safety through various County measures ensures a safer community. Environmental health regulations are complex and constantly changing. A longer supervision period allows specialists to gain a more profound knowledge of laws, protocols, and requirements while gaining valuable practical experience. Additionally, in the County of Monterey, specialists handle emergency situations, so providing more hands-on training ensures a cohesive and organized response with fewer errors while tackling high-stakes occurrences.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey supports AB 1288. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP, at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)



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