

May 6, 2019

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEMBER AGENCIES

Carlsbad
Municipal Water District

City of Del Mar

City of Escondido

City of National City

City of Oceanside

City of Poway

City of San Diego

Fallbrook
Public Utility District

Helix Water District

Lakeside Water District

Olivenhain
Municipal Water District

Otay Water District

Padre Dam
Municipal Water District

Camp Pendleton
Marine Corps Base

Rainbow
Municipal Water District

Ramona
Municipal Water District

Rincon del Diablo
Municipal Water District

San Dieguito Water District

Santa Fe Irrigation District

South Bay Irrigation District

Vallecitos Water District

Valley Center
Municipal Water District

Vista Irrigation District

Yuima
Municipal Water District

OTHER
REPRESENTATIVE

County of San Diego

RE: Executive Order N-10-19/California Water Security

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for the wisdom and leadership you have shown in Executive Order N-10-19.

More than six years ago, the San Diego County Water Authority joined several Southern and Northern California water districts, NRDC, and other conservation groups in proposing a Portfolio Alternative for the Bay-Delta. That proposal included a single tunnel, new water storage south of the Delta, and significant investments in local and regional water supplies. Since then, the state's water challenges have only become more severe, threatening the state's vitality, environment and economy.

While the Portfolio Alternative failed to gain support in Sacramento at the time, the ideas had strong support in San Diego County. Prior to 1991, the San Diego region relied almost exclusively on imported water supplies. After suffering the devastating impacts of drought and water shortages that year, our community got to work, determined to gain local control over the cost and reliability of our water. Since then, the Water Authority and its member agencies have invested over \$2 billion in local projects, including:

- Implemented the nation's largest agricultural water conservation and transfer agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District; and, completed Colorado River canal lining projects that will conserve and produce 280,000 acre-feet of water supply annually by 2021
- Constructed the Olivenhain Reservoir, adding almost 25,000 acre-feet of local storage
- Developed the nation's largest seawater desalination plant, producing 56,000 acre-feet of water annually
- Raised San Vicente Dam, adding more than 157,000 acre-feet of local storage
- Implemented a wide range of water-use efficiency programs that are broadly supported by San Diegans and have reduced per capita potable water use by more than 40%.

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The list doesn't stop there, but you get the picture. Once more than 95% dependent on imported water, the San Diego region is now less than one-third dependent--and we will be less than 20% dependent--by 2035. Every dollar of investment the Water Authority has made represents a commensurate reduction of take on the Bay-Delta.

The Water Authority and its member agencies are still at work, with more local projects on the drawing board, including a Pure Water potable reuse program being developed by the City of San Diego and an East County Advanced Water Purification Project. We are also continuing to plan for the future, with an upcoming study that will explore water, conveyance, storage, treatment and energy opportunities with strategic partners in Imperial Valley, Mexico and across the Southwest. This initiative is the next generation of the Water Authority's evolution, and the "poster child" for your Portfolio Alternative. The study will consider integrated solutions including storage to raise water levels at Lake Mead, implementing the recently-approved Drought Contingency Plan; a Salton Sea action plan that will protect both the environment and public health; binational opportunities with Mexico; clean energy generation, and much more. If state and federal dollars are prioritized to support local, integrated planning solutions, we will realize the State's 2009 promise to reduce demand on the Bay-Delta.

Almost two decades ago, the Water Authority's Board of Directors chose to take affirmative steps to change what had been an "end-of-the-pipeline" mentality, when our agency relied greatly on water imported from the Bay-Delta. In other words, we embraced then the intent of Executive Order N-10-19, and believe our experience is proof that ***it can be done***.

We invite you to tour these facilities. And, we look forward to welcoming Wade Crowfoot and other members of your Administration to San Diego, a visit that is now being planned. Again, we congratulate you on Executive Order N-10-19 and stand ready to support you and work with other stakeholders to ensure its success.

Sincerely,



Jim Madaffer

Chair, San Diego County Water Authority Board

cc: Water Authority Board of Directors and Member Agencies
San Diego Legislative Delegation
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of Natural Resources
Jared Blumenfield, Secretary of CalEPA
Karen Ross, Secretary of Food and Agriculture