September 12, 2017

The Honorable Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye
and Honorable Associate Justices
California Supreme Court
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Re: San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, et. al.,
Supreme Court Case No. S243500 (Court of Appeal Nos. A146901, A148266), Letter in Support of Petition for Review (Cal. R. Ct. 8.500(g))

To the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of California:

I am Dr. Jeffrey Michael, Executive Director of the Center for Business and Policy Research and Professor of Public Policy at the University of the Pacific. I have been studying California water issues for many years, particularly the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and have been invited to testify to California legislative committees numerous times on this issue. Efficient and fair pricing of water is a matter of great public interest to all Californians. State law includes several policy goals, such as reducing reliance on the Delta, that are significantly undermined by inefficient water pricing.

The issue in this case is whether Metropolitan Water District should be allowed to include costs for the State Water Project in transportation charges for water that is unrelated to the State Water Project. Pricing water in this way is harmful to statewide interests in water conservation and reducing reliance on the Delta, since it reduces the incentive to use conservation to free up supplies for more valuable uses. In addition, it artificially subsidizes the costs of water from the State Water Project, which directly undermines the goal of reducing reliance on the Delta.

Thus, I believe there is significant public interest in the issues in this case and encourage the Court to review the lower court ruling.

Sincerely,

Jeff Michael

Dr. Jeffrey Michael
Executive Director, Center for Business and Policy Research
Biography

Dr. Jeffrey Michael is Director of the Center for Business and Policy Research at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA.

Jeff’s areas of expertise include regional economic forecasting and environmental economics including work on the economic impacts of the Endangered Species Act, climate change, and regulation on land use, property values, and employment growth. His research has received numerous grants and has been published in scholarly journals such as the Journal of Law and Economics, Energy Policy, and Ecological Economics. He makes frequent presentations to regional business and government audiences and is cited over a hundred times per year in the local and national press including the Wall Street Journal, New York Times Magazine, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, NBC, NPR, and PBS.

Before coming to University of the Pacific in 2008, he spent nine years as faculty, Associate Dean, and Director of the Center for Applied Business and Economic Research at Towson University in Maryland. Jeff received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, M.S. from the University of Maine, and B.A. from Hamilton College.