



# NEWS RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STEVE ERIE TO EXAMINE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND SAN DIEGO'S WATER RATE CONFLICT WITH METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT AT UPCOMING WATER POLICY FORUM & DINNER**

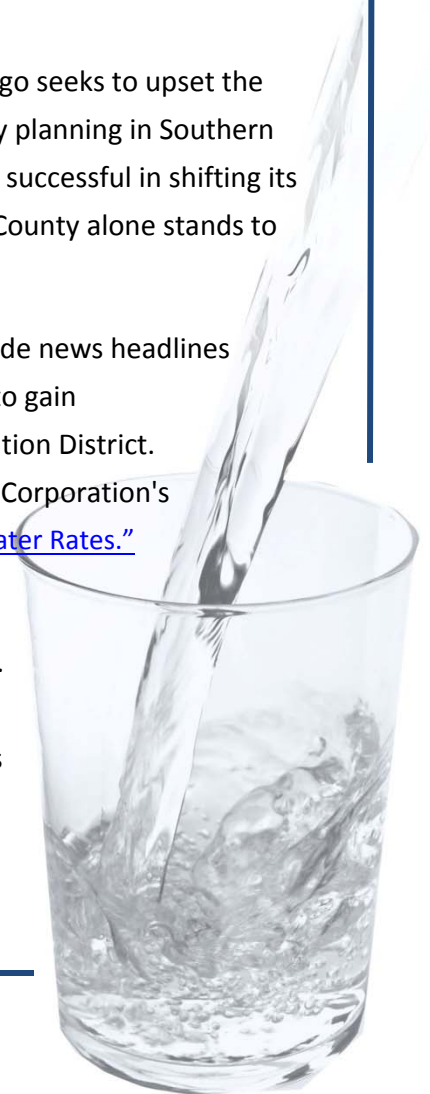
**Fountain Valley, CA** (July 17, 2012) – On Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, accomplished author and university professor Steve Erie will speak at the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Water Policy Forum & Dinner event on one of today's most debated and controversial issues: San Diego County Water Authority's (San Diego) water rate conflict and litigation with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). In his talk, titled "Understanding San Diego's Quest for Water Independence from MWD," Erie will highlight the origins and motivations behind San Diego's unique approach to water independence and their long-standing conflict with MWD.

"This is a very important issue for all Southern California residents, as San Diego seeks to upset the collaborative, regional approach that has long been the keystone of water reliability planning in Southern California," remarked Jeffery M. Thomas, MWDOC Board President. "If San Diego is successful in shifting its water transportation costs onto other Southern California water agencies, Orange County alone stands to face a cost increase of more than \$155 million over the next 20 years."

A renowned expert in the areas of water policy and planning, Mr. Erie has made news headlines for his critical views of San Diego's controversial water supply and policy decisions to gain independence from MWD by purchasing more expensive water from Imperial Irrigation District. Recently, Erie was a contributor to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's report on ["The Cost of Water in San Diego: The IID Water Transfers and the SDCWA Water Rates."](#)

More than 200 water industry professionals, business leaders, and residents are anticipated to participate in the Water Policy Forum & Dinner event to hear Mr. Erie's unique perspective on this issue. The event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel in Costa Mesa. Event registration is available online at <http://www.mwdoc.com/services/policy-dinners>.

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Erie's extensive experience in academia also gives credence to his viewpoints. He is a Professor of Political Science, Adjunct Professor of History, and Director of Urban Studies and Planning at the University of California, San Diego.

*Steve Erie, Ph.D.*



Mr. Erie has authored several books that directly relate to the political events we see unfolding today. His book, *Beyond Chinatown: The Metropolitan Water District, Growth, and the Environment in Southern California*, tells the history of MWD and its role in developing one of the world's largest economies amidst numerous water battles, including conflict with San Diego. Erie will be available to sign copies of *Beyond Chinatown* at the July 25th event. His most recent book, *Paradise Plundered: Fiscal Crisis and Governance Failures in San Diego*, synthesizes policy analysis, political theory, and history to explain the unintended consequences of government decisions in San Diego.

About the Municipal Water District of Orange County

The Municipal Water District of Orange County is a water resource management and planning agency dedicated to ensuring water supply and system reliability for the 2.2 million residents we serve through our 28 member agencies. Our efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education, and emergency preparedness. MWDOC's service area covers all of Orange County, with the exception of the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana.

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