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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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April 14, 2020

Mr. Sat Tamaribuchi
Board President
Municipal Water District of Orange County
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley CA 92708

SUBJECT: April 15, 2020 Municipal Water District of Orange County Board Meeting
Agenda Items Number 9-5 and 9-8

Dear Sat:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) expressed its concern about several different items at last weeks' Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Planning and Operations Committee (P&O) and Administration & Finance (A&F) Committee meetings that have been subsequently moved forward to your April 15, 2020 Board meeting for approval. I would like to reiterate the concerns that OCWD has regarding those items.

1. Item 9-5 on the Board agenda stems from a lengthy discussion at last weeks' P&O Committee meeting regarding the Doheny Desalination Project and the urgency of moving forward with the proposed economic studies, which would help support that project. OCWD's concerns are that this issue had not been discussed in any forum prior to the P&O meeting allowing for an open and transparent dialogue. Additionally, OCWD does not understand and questions the urgency of this work. The project also triggers a fundamental question as to whether MWDOC should be moving forward with studying the Doheny Desalination Project until a discussion between the MWDOC Board and its member agencies can take place as to whether this project should be Core or Choice. It is OCWD's position that this project should be a Choice item and that no further money be spent on the project until this issue can be discussed with your member agencies and resolved.
2. Item 9-8 on the Board agenda was discussed at great length at last weeks' A&F Committee meeting regarding changes to the MWDOC Rate Ordinance to Establish Classes of Water Service. OCWD's concerns are that this issue had not been discussed prior to the A&F meeting and could potentially have far reaching policy implications that need to be further discussed between the MWDOC Board and its members before being adopted.

It is OCWD's position that these two agenda items be deferred so that they can be more fully discussed with your member agencies. If the MWDOC Board wishes to pass its recommended FY2020-21 rate resolution, we suggest using your existing Rate Ordinance.

OCWD is very concerned about these issues and does not see the urgency in moving forward with either of them until they can be openly discussed with MWDOC's member agencies.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincente Sarmiento". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "S".

Vincente Sarmiento, Esq.
Orange County Water District Board President

Bcc: OCWD Board of Directors
Cc: Mike Markus, OCWD General Manager
John Kennedy, OCWD Executive Director