

MWDOC Member Agency Managers

April 14, 2020

Mr. Robert Hunter
General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Re: Upcoming MWDOC Board Meeting

Rob:

There are two items on the upcoming MWDOC Board meeting that have raised concerns among MWDOC's customers: the retail water agencies of Orange County and OCWD. These items have been portrayed as "harmless" by some, but we believe that they have the potential to profoundly change the course of MWDOC's purpose and mission. Requests from among the largest of MWDOC's customers at the recent Planning & Operations (P&O) Committee and Administration & Finance (A&F) Committee meetings to defer these items were dismissed by both committees. This letter is to reiterate the request **that the MWDOC Board defer action related to these issues** to provide the MWDOC Managers the opportunity to provide input on these significant items to the MWDOC staff.

The P&O Committee discussed and took action on an item regarding the potential future role of MWDOC in the Doheny Desalination Project. This letter is not a statement regarding the merits of this project. MWDOC's proposal to take an active role in a water treatment plant would be a first-of-its-kind endeavor for MWDOC. Some of the retail agencies may believe that MWDOC should not have a role in a project like this, while some may advocate that MWDOC should participate in this only as a choice project. There could be differences of opinion on the best approach or role for MWDOC in this project, but we all agree that the MWDOC Managers group should have an opportunity to discuss this matter, as we do on many important MWDOC issues. The urgency of this request is compounded by the substantial increase in the scope and cost of MWDOC's effort – as described in the MWDOC Board meeting agenda materials – beyond what was discussed at the P&O meeting, which was only last week.

The A&F Committee passed through the annual Rate Resolution and Ordinance in which language had been added to codify a drastic expansion of MWDOC's scope. Like the P&O item mentioned above, there was no mention of this change in any of the managers' meetings. We understand MWDOC needs to move forward with the Rate Resolutions, but we request that MWDOC remove the new language inserted into the first paragraph.

These are truly difficult times, especially for those of us working on the "front lines" to provide water and sewer service to our residential, business, and institutional customers. We request that you, your team, and the MWDOC Board consider the current circumstances along with the merits of our request to defer the items described above to a later date to allow for discussion among and with the MWDOC Managers.

Please forward this letter to the MWDOC Board.

Managers from the agencies listed below have communicated their concurrence with this letter.

Irvine Ranch Water District	Santa Margarita Water District	Orange County Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District	City of Garden Grove	Emerald Bay Service District
El Toro Water District	City of Huntington Beach	City of Orange
Trabuco Canyon Water District	Serrano Water District	City of Fountain Valley
City of Westminster	Yorba Linda Water District	Laguna Beach County Water District
Golden State Water Company	City of Tustin	East Orange County Water District
City of La Palma	City of Newport Beach	City of San Juan Capistrano
	City of San Clemente	
City of Santa Ana	City of Anaheim	City of Fullerton