

Maribeth Goldsby

From: Karl Seckel
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 4:54 PM
To: 'Dennis Cafferty'
Cc: Robert Hunter; Maribeth Goldsby; Linda Ackerman; Robert2 McVicker; Robert McVicker; Cathy Harris; Finnegan Hm (tanchofish@yahoo.com); Jeffery M. Thomas; Jeffery M. Thomas; Joan C. Finnegan; Joseph P. Byrne ; Karl Seckel; L. Dick; Larry McKenney; Larry D. Dick; Larry McKenney; Linda Ackerman; Maribeth Goldsby; Megan Y. Schneider; Robert Hunter; SatTamaribuchi; Sat Tamaribuchi; Megan Schneider; Tina Dubuque
Subject: RE: MWDOC Economic Benefits Study
Attachments: MWDOC Econ Benefits Study.ETWD Comment.pdf

Dennis, thanks for the question from your Board. By way of this email we are also providing your question and our response to our Board of Directors and copying Maribeth Goldsby so she can post the response for the purpose of tomorrow morning's discussion.

The question your Board brought up was one that we had previously discussed with our Consultant Team including Dr. David Sunding and Dr. Wallace Walrod. In prior discussions, our Consultant Team indicated their belief that the survey could be completed without being skewed by the ongoing pandemic and their belief was that a sufficient response from the business community could be achieved. We checked back just today in direct response to your question. We asked Dr. Walrod about the level of participation in recent events at the Orange County Business Council. Dr. Walrod noted that participation is up for all OCBC events and meetings. He further indicated that he is involved in the process of interviewing employers on a couple of other efforts and there have been no real problems in setting up 30-60 minute discussions on HR topics.

Therefore, at this point we are not anticipating problems with completing the work and getting quality responses from the survey. A reminder that the survey will be carefully developed and tested before it is pursued in an interview type of setting with different business sectors.

Thanks so much for your question.

We will be available to discuss this further tomorrow morning.

Karl Seckel

From: Dennis Cafferty <dcafferty@etwd.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Robert Hunter <RHunter@mwdoc.com>
Cc: Karl Seckel <kseckel@mwdoc.com>
Subject: MWDOC Economic Benefits Study

Good morning Rob,

The El Toro Water District Board of Directors would like to pose a question regarding the data collection efforts intended to be utilized for the survey to support the proposed economic benefits study.

Please see the attached letter.

Thanks Rob.

Dennis P. Cafferty, P.E.
General Manager
El Toro Water District

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El Toro Water District

"A District of Distinction"

Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

October 20, 2020

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Mr. Robert Hunter, General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County
P.O. Box 20895
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Re: Proposed Economic Benefits Study

Dear Mr. Hunter,

On October 21, the MWDOC Board of Directors will consider, as part of the Consent Calendar, a proposed action to award a contract to the Brattle Group to perform economic benefit studies to quantify the benefits of certain local projects. The El Toro Water District appreciates the efforts of the MWDOC staff to engage with the member agencies facilitating robust discussion of the proposed project.

The ETWD Board of Directors has not taken a position of either support nor opposition to the proposed project but requests the MWDOC Board consider an important question prior to authorizing the Brattle Group to proceed with the survey portion of the proposed work. It is the District's understanding, based on a review of the proposed schedule, that the planned survey of businesses will take place in the early part of 2021.

It would seem that much of the business community that will be the intended respondents to the survey is deeply involved in the mere act of survival in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are all hopeful that there will be relief from the current environment in the near future, there is no guarantee that the health crisis will resolve before the survey is conducted. Please provide an explanation as to how the Brattle Group intends to ensure the validity of the data while the potential respondents are elsewhere occupied with far more immediate challenges than the hypothetical water service interruption that will be the basis for the survey.

The District appreciates the MWDOC Board's consideration of this question.

Sincerely,

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

Dennis P. Cafferty
General Manager