



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 30, 2020

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

Re: MWDOC Storage Account in the Orange County Groundwater Basin

Rob:

On November 2, MWDOC staff will lead a discussion with the MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee on MWDOC pursuing access to a storage account in the Orange County Groundwater Basin (Basin). The purpose of this letter is to provide perspective on the issue and to help inform the discussion.

In January 2018, the Orange County Groundwater Producers (Producers) sent a letter to Orange County Water District (OCWD) unanimously opposing OCWD entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a non-Producer, Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD), to study providing MNWD access to storage in the Basin. Even though OCWD moved forward with the MOU and the corresponding studies are ongoing, the Producers remain opposed to OCWD making any further efforts to provide storage to MNWD. For the same reasons, the Producers would likely not support MWDOC having a storage account in the Basin.

At the October 28 Joint Planning Meeting, Karl Seckel gave a presentation on the importance of MWDOC and OCWD coordinating and cooperating in efforts to support water supply reliability in Orange County. IRWD supports MWDOC and OCWD coordinating and cooperating with each other as well as with their member and Producer agencies. Such efforts should occur while understanding and respecting the roles and responsibilities of each agency.

If MWDOC is interested in pursuing a storage account in the Basin, it should be done in cooperation with OCWD and the Producers. MWDOC should not impede or delay implementation of the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP). As a first step, we recommend that MWDOC engage in discussions with OCWD, the Producers and the other MWDOC member agencies on ways to facilitate coordination and cooperation on water supply reliability issues in Orange County.

I hope that the perspectives provided above are helpful to you in leading the discussion on storage at the upcoming Planning and Operations Committee meeting. Please provide a copy of this letter to all members of the MWDOC Board of Directors. If you have any questions, please contact me at (949) 453-5590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Cook".

Paul A. Cook, P.E.
General Manager

cc: MWDOC Board of Directors