



April 29, 2021

Ms. Kome Ajise  
Executive Director  
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Street Address:  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, California 92708

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 20895  
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-0895

(714) 963-3058  
Fax: (714) 964-9389  
[www.mwdoc.com](http://www.mwdoc.com)

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Director

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**Re: MWDOC 2020 UWMP– Regional Housing Needs Assessment Considerations**

Dear Ms. Ajise:

Thank you for providing us your April 23 comment letter on the MWDOC Public Draft 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). We very much appreciate your staff's willingness to meet with MWDOC staff to discuss your comments in more detail.

Our staff have carefully reviewed the comments that are outlined in your letter and engaged experts from the Center for Demographic Research at Cal State Fullerton, the Metropolitan Water District, California Department of Housing and Community Development, and local agencies to best understand the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) – 6<sup>th</sup> cycle, that was adopted by SCAG in March of 2021.

Through this thorough research and analysis, MWDOC finds that the RHNA has been appropriately addressed in the 2020 UWMP. Moreover, through our discussions with these various experts on the underlying information contained within MWDOC's 2020 UWMP, there is the understanding that MWDOC's 2020 UWMP includes the most complete and update information available for projecting water demands.

Again, we very much appreciate your staff's time and effort dedicated toward ensuring that the MWDOC 2020 UWMP incorporates the best available information. These comments are very useful in helping us finalize our UWMP for submittal to the state. Should you have any concerns or additional questions please do not hesitate to contact our Assistant General Manager, Harvey De La Torre at (714) 593-5027.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Hunter  
General Manager

cc: Jonathan T. Hughes, SCAG

Attachment: SCAG 2020 UWMP Comment Letter Dated April 23, 2021



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
T: (213) 236-1800  
www.scag.ca.gov

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April 23, 2021

The Honorable Satoru “Sat” Tamaribuchi  
President, Municipal Water District of Orange County  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**RE: 2020 Urban Water Management Plan – Regional Housing Needs  
Assessment Considerations**

Dear President Tamaribuchi:

We understand that the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is preparing the agency’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), a document required by the State of California to be submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) at least once every five years. The UWMP’s purpose, as detailed in a recent presentation to the MWDOC Planning & Operations Committee, is to analyze and plan for housing and population growth, and related water demand, within MWDOC’s service area encompassing 28 water providers in 31 of the 34 cities in Orange County (all Orange County cities except Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana).

The State’s Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is focused on ensuring that cities and counties statewide plan for the range of housing that meets the varied needs of all Californians. As part of that process, every eight years, HCD develops a regional determination of housing need, also known as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), for various regions of the state. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is responsible for developing a RHNA allocation plan for its six-county area, which includes Orange County, based on this regional determination. Cities and counties use the RHNA allocation to update their individual Housing Element to ascertain how and where they will attempt to address the requisite needs for both affordable and market-rate housing within their jurisdictions.

After a multi-year public process that included robust stakeholder engagement, SCAG adopted its final version of the most recent eight-year RHNA allocation plan on March 4, 2021, which HCD approved on March 22, 2021. The adopted RHNA allocation for Orange County’s 34 cities and unincorporated territory is 183,861 new housing units over the

next eight years. The total adjusted number for MWDOC's service area (excluding the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana) is 150,104 new housing units over the next eight years. The RHNA allocation represents housing units needed to reduce overcrowding and accommodate not only people currently living in the SCAG region but future growth over the next eight years as well. The adopted plan for the SCAG region may be viewed by clicking [here](#).

As MWDOC finalizes its draft 2020 UWMP, SCAG urges that you consider the RHNA allocations for the respective jurisdictions within MWDOC's service area in your water demand projections over the next eight to ten years. California's housing crisis is genuine, and it will require the full commitment of every city and county to not only plan for the units that are desperately needed but also to be part of our consolidated plan required for California to receive millions of federal dollars for housing and community development.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide these comments for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me if I may answer any questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Kome Ajise  
Executive Director