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Water Needs

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May 18, 2021

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

**Subject: Item 7-1 MWDOC 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP),
Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and 2015 UWMP Addendum**

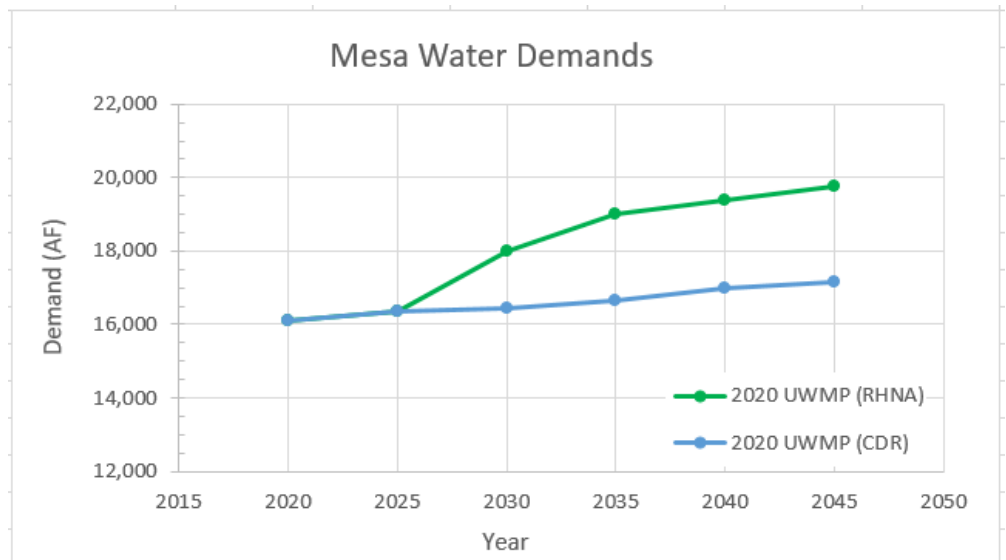
Dear President Tamaribuchi:

As the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) prepares for its May 19, 2021 public hearing and adoption of its 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) is herein sharing with you, your Board and staff, and stakeholders the results of our water demand studies through 2045. We believe this is important as the UWMP's purpose is to analyze and plan for estimated housing and population growth -- and the resulting water demands related to such -- for MWDOC's service area, which includes Mesa Water's area that currently serves businesses and 110,000 residents in 41,985 housing units.

Mesa Water's study compared water demand predictions that resulted from using two different housing growth projections for our area through 2045:

1. **Center for Demographic Research (CDR)** projections, as incorporated in MWDOC's 2020 UWMP; and,
2. **Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)** projections, which local jurisdictions use to meet their housing needs, per the goals of the State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that cities and counties statewide plan for population growth and the range of housing to meet the needs of all Californians.

The below chart shows that, for Mesa Water's service area, the RHNA housing projections (green line in the chart) result in a predicted water demand that is 15% higher by 2045 than the result from the CDR housing projections (blue line in the chart):





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Mesa Water embraces a “perpetual agency” philosophy and, as such, we place a high priority on our responsibility to reliably deliver safe, clean water that consistently meets the needs of our current and potential future population...into perpetuity.

As water planners, Mesa Water believes it is vital that we use housing and population growth projections that offer maximum credibility in planning for the provision of water supplies to meet forecasted water demands. Additionally, we deem that it is most sensible for the housing and population growth projections to align with the State of California’s goals for such growth, which is why Mesa Water is using the RHNA projections to estimate water demands in our service area for the purposes of MWDOC’s 2020 UWMP. Furthermore, the State of California is planning for meeting water demands during severe drought conditions and under high-growth scenarios, while also encouraging local agencies to do the same.

For the above reasons, Mesa Water believes it is most prudent to use the RHNA projections in the 2020 UWMP and encourages MWDOC to do the same for its service area. We appreciate your attention to this important matter and we welcome the opportunity to further discuss this with you. To that end, please feel free to contact me at 949.433.4261 (cell). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marice DePasquale
Mesa Water Board President

- c: MWDOC Board of Directors
- Mesa Water Board of Directors
- Robert J. Hunter, MWDOC General Manager
- Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., Mesa Water General Manager