



November 2, 2021

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

Re: Implementation of MWDOC Water Shortage Contingency Plan at Level 2

Rob:

On November 9, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is expected to consider an action declaring a regional drought emergency and calling on Metropolitan Member Agencies to implement mandatory conservation in accordance with each agencies' Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). On November 3, in advance of Metropolitan's action, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Board will consider options for the implementation of MWDOC's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). Both potential actions are being considered pursuant to Governor Newsom's July 8, 2021 Executive Order calling on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15% and the Governor's October 19, 2021 proclamation of a drought related emergency in Southern California. The purpose of this letter is to provide recommendations regarding MWDOC's support of Metropolitan's potential action and the implementation of MWDOC's WSCP.

Local Retail Agencies Have Primary Responsibility:

Local retail water suppliers have the primary responsibility for responding to drought and other water shortages based on local water supply conditions, demands for imported water, investments they have made in sustainable local supplies (such as recycled water and access to groundwater) and the water use efficiency of their communities. When responding to an imported water shortage, regional imported water suppliers should not mandate reductions in use of sustainable supplies. Instead, the local retail water agencies should be allowed to take appropriate actions consistent with their WSCPs as well as their annual water supply and demand assessments.

Statewide Drought is Affecting Areas Differently:

The statewide drought is affecting each Metropolitan Member Agency and each associated retail sub-agency differently. The portions of Metropolitan's service area that are primarily dependent

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on imported supplies from the State Water Project (SWP) are being impacted significantly while other areas are not experiencing shortage conditions. The retail agencies that are significantly impacted by SWP supplies will need to implement their WSCPs in response to greater shortages of water than agencies in other areas with access to sustainable local supplies.

Recommendations:

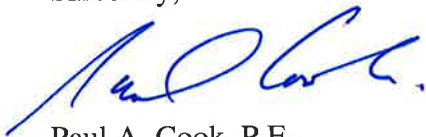
Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) encourages MWDOC to support the Metropolitan Board on November 9 in adopting a resolution calling for voluntary conservation among its Member Agencies that is specific to the needs of each local retail agency service area as outlined in each agency's WSCP. This is preferred to Metropolitan requesting mandatory across-the-board reductions or triggering of its Water Supply Allocation Plan (WSAP). Empowering the local retail water agencies will allow the agencies to fulfill their responsibilities to respond to the drought in a way that reflects each agency's dependence on SWP supplies and access to local sustainable supplies.

IRWD further recommends that the MWDOC Board approve a resolution activating its WSCP at Level 2 and for MWDOC to work closely with its local retail agencies in implementing an expanded public outreach campaign with the goal of achieving a voluntary water demand reduction of 15% while implementing the following prohibitions:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways, and other hardscapes;
- Washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle;
- Using non-recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature;
- Watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff, or within 48 hours after measurable precipitation; and
- Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians.

We look forward to coordinating with MWDOC in the implementation of an expanded outreach campaign. If you have any questions, please contact me at (949) 453-5590. Please provide a copy of this letter to all members of the MWDOC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Cook, P.E.
General Manager

cc: MWDOC Board of Directors