



*For Immediate Release*

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## **MWD OC PROVIDES FEEDBACK TO LAFCO'S OCWD MSR AND SOI PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT, ENCOURAGES COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES**

**Fountain Valley, CA** (December 20, 2024) — The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC) has released its formal response to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) regarding the Orange County Water District (OCWD) Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) Public Review Draft, which includes a Consolidation Feasibility Study of OCWD and MWD OC. In the response, MWD OC identifies significant issues in the Study that call into question the feasibility and benefits of a proposed consolidation and encourages alternatives that enhance collaboration between the existing agencies.

Key areas noted in MWD OC's response include ensuring that cost savings and purported benefits are grounded in sound financial analysis, safeguarding the integrity of governance and representation, and clearly demonstrating how changes would deliver meaningful improvements to water reliability and value for Orange County. MWD OC also highlights that within each of the MWD OC and OCWD's recent MSRs, LAFCO found no service deficiencies, and each agency is adequately prepared to provide its member agencies with public services within its authorization. Suggesting that targeted enhancements and further partnerships among the two agencies—rather than large-scale restructuring—will be more effective.

“MWD OC appreciates LAFCO's efforts to strengthen regional water management. However, this feasibility study does not provide evidence that consolidation would benefit Orange water suppliers or their customers,” said MWD OC General Manager Harvey De La Torre. “We recommend focusing on areas that improve service efficiencies and coordination activities that will provide far more benefits without the risks, governance issues, and consolidation costs. Over the years, MWD OC and OCWD have worked closely on initiatives that have benefitted the entire region, such as coordinating Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs), conducting countywide demand forecasting, hosting the Orange County Water Summit, identifying grant opportunities, and participating in Metropolitan Water District's water management efforts like the Cyclic Storage Program. Based on these partnerships, a measured approach that builds on our agencies' strong track record and leverages existing frameworks to achieve shared water management goals is clearly the better choice moving forward.”

MWD OC looks forward to working with OCWD, the Orange County retail agencies, and key stakeholders to enhance our collaborative efforts to achieve shared goals. For more details on MWD OC's feedback, please read the full response letter: [CLICK HERE](#)

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*The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is a wholesale water provider and resource planning agency whose efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply, water use efficiency and conservation, public information and outreach, legislative advocacy, water education for all ages, and emergency preparedness. MWDOC's 27 water agencies, comprised of city water departments and water districts, provide water service to the public. [www.mwdoc.com](http://www.mwdoc.com)*