

MAYOR

Miguel A. Pulido
mpulido@santa-ana.org

MAYOR PRO TEM

Juan Villegas
Ward 5
jvillegas@santa-ana.org

COUNCILMEMBERS

Vicente Sarmiento
Ward 1
vsarmiento@santa-ana.org

David Penalosa
Ward 2
dpenalosa@santa-ana.org

Jose Solorio
Ward 3
jsolorio@santa-ana.org

Phil Bacerra
Ward 4
pbacerra@santa-ana.org

Cecilia Iglesias
Ward 6
ciglesias@santa-ana.org



CITY OF SANTA ANA

April 10, 2020

Honorable Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: Request to Defer and Decrease Proposed Water Rate Increases

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Fellow Board Members:

The City of Santa Ana provides water and sanitary sewer services to over 44,000 customer accounts, which allows us to provide water to a diverse population of nearly 350,000 residents, as well as industrial, institutional and commercial customers. The City meets its water supply needs with a mix of local ground water from the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and imported water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). We purchase treated imported water from MWD, with anticipated purchases of approximately 8,750 acre-feet next year, totaling estimated payments of over \$10.5 million.

The City of Santa Ana appreciates the service and leadership MWD has consistently provided to our region, the state and nation on water supply management and infrastructure. Our country has entered an unprecedented period due to COVID-19. The impacts of this pandemic are changing daily, and the City's water department is focusing on key priorities during this time: ensuring our supply is safe and reliable; safeguarding our employees and their ability to provide vital services; and adjusting our ways of doing business to assist our community and customers in weathering this unprecedented event.

At the City of Santa Ana, we have already implemented several measures to minimize the burden on our community and continue to provide high-quality service to our customers, including:

CITY ATTORNEY
Sonia R. Carvalho

CITY MANAGER
Kristine Ridge

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Daisy Gomez

- Suspending all service shut-offs during this crisis;
- Suspending all late fees during this crisis; and,
- Implementing telecommuting strategies to enable employees to perform needed duties remotely.

As I've been sharing with some of you for the past month, the proposed 5% MWD rate increase that was originally proposed by staff would impose a significant burden on the City of Santa Ana, its customers and residents.

The City of Santa Ana respectfully requests that MWD defer and continue to decrease any planned rate increases. We also ask that MWD review its current budget and operating methods, as well as utilize its reserves, to help manage through this crisis. In addition to the public health consequences of the Coronavirus, our community's economic base has been hurt and our residents and businesses alike deserve relief and compassion during this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jose Solorio
Council Member, City of Santa Ana
Board Member, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California