



CITY OF OCEANSIDE
WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

September 10, 2020

Gloria Gray, Chairwoman
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

RE: REQUEST TO MINIMIZE RATE INCREASES

Dear Madam Chairwoman,

Given the financial challenges created by the recession and the COVID-19 pandemic across MWD's service area, I urge you to lead the way by encouraging open discourse on additional ideas for cost cutting measures to further reduce any planned water rate increases in 2021 and 2022. I understand per your September 8, 2020 correspondence to Chair Madaffer, that many of the cost-containment strategies suggested by members of the Board, including the SDCWA delegation, were implemented earlier this year. I wanted to thank you for taking proactive action and to pass along that these efforts make a difference to the 178,000 community members in Oceanside who rely on the City for water, wastewater and recycled water services.

Many water agencies across the Southern California region are facing significant financial pressure due to unpaid bills by residents as well as their own efforts to provide rate relief. They have taken steps such as freezing hiring, delaying or deferring projects and reducing travel and training. Oceanside has also taken these steps in addition to halting water service shutoffs and suspending late fees for non-payment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many small businesses, residents and other customers are struggling financially and the City has been proactive in developing creative solutions to work through these challenges.

I support other ways that MWD can trim costs without materially impacting services while offering rate relief to all Southern California ratepayers. Thank you for your consideration of additional steps that can be taken to support residents and businesses during these most unique and trying times. I am available to discuss our comments with you or your staff at 760-435-5827 or Cdale@oceansideca.org

Sincerely,

Cari Dale
Water Utilities Director

CC: Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors (dl-boardsupportteam@mwdh2o.com)
San Diego County Water Authority (MNelson@sdcwa.org)
Oceanside City Councilmembers