



Setting Standards of
Excellence in Public Service

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September 11, 2020

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

RE: Rate relief for all Southern Californians

Dear Chair Gray,

As Helix Water District's board of directors, we are reaching out to request that Metropolitan Water District of Southern California implement additional cost cutting measures and rate relief through 2021.

Southern California, like the rest of the nation, has experienced a tragic loss of life due to COVID-19 with hundreds of thousands testing positive – and that number continues to grow. The pandemic has also created severe financial challenges for our communities, with many out of work and struggling to pay for housing, utilities, food and medical expenses.

Since the pandemic began, Helix has focused on one thing – keeping the water on for those we serve, regardless of their ability to pay. In March, the district's board suspended water shutoffs and late fees, and in April, we froze water rates for the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year. We have cut expenses across departments and deferred projects to support our customers through these challenging times, without compromising water safety or reliability.

We acknowledge and appreciate MWD's efforts to date to reduce costs and keep its 2021 rate increases lower than originally anticipated. Today, we are asking that MWD join Helix – and water agencies throughout the region – in continuing efforts to further reduce costs and provide additional rate relief to our struggling communities. Here at Helix, water purchases account for almost half of our annual expenses. A reduction in wholesale water rates would directly benefit residents and businesses here at Helix and throughout Southern California.

Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to continuing to work together to support the communities we serve during these difficult times.

Board of Directors
Mark Gracyk, President
DeAna R. Verbeke, Vice President
Daniel H. McMillan, Division 1
Kathleen Coates Hedberg, Division 4
Joel A. Scalzitti, Division 5

Sincerely,



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