

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0065
(916) 319-2065
ASM.CA.GOV/QUIRK-SILVA



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CHAIR: ORANGE COUNTY CHRONIC
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NONPROFIT SECTOR
STUDENT DEBT

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

Subject: Support Adán Ortega for Chairman of the Metropolitan Water District

I would like to recommend the election of Adán Ortega, of the City of Fullerton, as Chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (“MWD”). Mr. Ortega moved to Fullerton in 2003, and we have known and worked together since my service on the Fullerton City Council. During my time in the California State Assembly, I have counted on Mr. Ortega for his counsel on state and regional water policy. Mr. Ortega would be the first Latino to serve as Chairman of the Metropolitan Water District.

Mr. Ortega often advises me on the importance of water policy and makes it relevant to the non-water committees I lead and am a member. As Chairwoman of the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee, I appreciate that Mr. Ortega led the “Liquid Art” program during his time as an official at MWD beginning in 2003. “Liquid Art” was a two-year art exhibition that traveled the state demonstrating how the quest for water in California has impacted not only the economy, but our culture. Water is our common quest in California and a resource that should unite us.

I am also proud of Mr. Ortega’s service as an advocate for low-income communities in California that lack safe drinking water. He has brought his knowledge and service to North Orange County, an area that has been dealing with the contamination of our own groundwater, affecting primarily our poorest neighborhoods.

Mr. Ortega is a great representative for the City of Fullerton on the Board of MWD. He has helped forge partnerships that have made a difference with delegates from Los Angeles, San Diego, the Inland Empire and the San Gabriel Valley. During the COVID-19 crisis, Mr. Ortega led an effort at MWD to reduce projected water rate increases, and to track the agency’s budget to account for potential stress in our

communities. He has been a champion for water recycling since the 1990's, when he was Assistant General Manager of the West Basin Municipal Water District.

Given his qualifications and experience, spirit of cooperation and vast knowledge about water in California, Mr. Ortega would make an excellent Board Chair at MWD. I can recommend Mr. Ortega, without reservation, for this position and appreciate your full consideration of his candidacy.

Sincerely,

Sharon Quirk-Silva

Cc:

Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors: rcastro@mwdh2o.com
The Fullerton City Council