

# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



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September 24, 2020

The Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
c/o Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

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

I would like to recommend your support of Adán Ortega, of the City of Fullerton, as Chair of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (“MWD”). Adán and I worked together during my time as President of the International Longshore Workers Union – Local 13 (ILWU). He played an important role by managing our media relations, in helping to avert an employer lock-out during a potential labor dispute in 2015. He has also been involved in some ILWU efforts to plan public responses to proposed automation at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. He is sincere in his concern for rank and file workers and would be a progressive leader on labor issues at MWD.

In his current service on the MWD Board, Adán has led key motions at MWD to create a board committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that would support the efforts of rank and file workers and their bargaining units. During his previous experience as the agency’s Vice President for External Affairs (1999-2005), Adán worked with labor to create an apprenticeship program for the journey trades, and to develop project labor agreements.

Adán is an expert in water policy and coalition-builder. As Chair of the MWD board, he would bring consensus around better approaches for managing the region’s dependence on the Sacramento San Joaquin Bay-Delta, encouraging water-use efficiency, and conservation. These are issues that are important to the regional economy and the Los Angeles port area in San Pedro is no exception. MWD is at a critical time of transition as it recruits a new general manager, and completes its twenty-five year Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), Southern California’s water planning blueprint. You can be confident that Adán will not only support your sustainability goals, but will drive consensus to drive such priorities regionally throughout Southern California.

I appreciate your consideration of support for Adán Ortega as Board Chair of MWD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Olvera, Jr.', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Olvera, Jr.  
International Vice President, Mainland

RO/akj cwa 39521

cc: Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors: rcastro@mwdh2o.com