



October 30, 2020

Metropolitan Water District Main Headquarters
P. O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA
90054-0153

To the honorable Chairwoman Gray and Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors,

We, the undersigned, represent diverse advocates with shared values for an equitable water future: the human right to clean, safe, and affordable water (especially for low-income communities), vital waterways and coastlines, resilient water infrastructure, good jobs performed by a skilled and trained workforce, community engagement, and the health of all people.

We strongly support Board approval of the next steps for the Regional Recycled Water Project (RRWP), including environmental planning, taking swift and responsible action to ensure Southern California has a reliable and climate-resilient water supply. With the potential to produce 150 million gallons of clean and safe drinking water each day, over 1.7 million Californians could have their water needs met each year with this project alone. This project would also create thousands of jobs while reducing ocean impacts from discharged water.

Now is the time for the Board to take bold action and move forward on recycled water. In this new era of climate change, we are already experiencing droughts, flooding, extreme heat, more intense wildfire seasons, Colorado River supply-demand imbalance, as well as the ever-present threat of earthquakes to our current water system. The RRWP can contribute to long-term affordability and create a stable, local, source of water and significant economic opportunities at a time of uncertainty. At the same time, it will establish MWD as a national leader in water recycling and create a regional innovation hub. The Board should advance the next phase of the RRWP **now** to continue progress towards water resilience, while incorporating it into the organization's long-term water reliability goals and Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

The MWD is at an important juncture for our region's water future, with pending decisions regarding a new General Manager, the development of the IRP, as well as water infrastructure investments such as the RRWP. We hope MWD's General Manager search and IRP process will prioritize water equity, fair infrastructure investments, good jobs performed by a skilled and trained workforce, community voice, and public and environmental health. The people of Southern California look to this Board's leadership for safe, reliable, and accessible water.

These decisions will help MWD realize its vision to provide "adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way." We look forward to working with you on these crucial matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ely Flores", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ely Flores, Executive Director