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October 2, 2020

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

SENT VIA EMAIL

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

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

We are writing to recommend that the City of Los Angeles support Adán Ortega, of the City of Fullerton, as Chair of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). To many, Adán has served as an advisor and facilitator in the complex world of water policy in California. His expertise, knowledge and concern for our communities has been of tremendous value on issues ranging from local governance of water agencies, to state water bonds, drinking water quality, and environmental justice.

If elected, Adán would be the first Latino Chair in MWD's 90-year history. He would also be the first in that capacity to be fully fluent in Spanish, an important attribute for communicating with a great portion of Southern California's population. While Adán would be the first Latino, he is first and foremost a water expert.

In the 1990s, Adán led a study to determine the infrastructure needs in some of Los Angeles County's poorest communities. This resulted in the first allocation of state funds in the water arena designated for disadvantaged communities through Proposition 50. Adán also orchestrated the strategy for Federal Title XVI funding for water recycling projects in greater Los Angeles, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of investments in all of Los Angeles County.

We have known Adán for many years and have followed his career from Assistant General Manager of West and Central Basin Municipal Water Districts in Los Angeles County to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, where he is credited with helping establish the focus on outdoor water conservation through Bewaterwise.com and California Friendly plants. Now he helps small water systems serving disadvantaged communities throughout California, in addition to his service as a Director of MWD.

The Honorable Eric Garcetti

Page 2

October 2, 2020

Your visionary PlanLA establishes clear targets for water sustainability, and we have every confidence that Adán's knowledge and abilities will advance your vision throughout Southern California in this capacity. We respectfully request that you endorse his selection as MWD's next Board Chair.

Sincerely,



Dr. David C. Lizárraga
Chairman & Founder



Dr. Michael Lizárraga
President & CEO, TELACU

c: Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors

