



International Union of Operating Engineers AFL-CIO
Southern California & Southern Nevada

RONALD J. SIKORSKI
Business Manager
and
General Vice President

November 2, 2020

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

RE: SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM (ITEMS #7-3 & #7-4), ON THE NOVEMBER 9TH (E&O COMMITTEE) AND NOVEMBER 10TH (FULL BOARD MTG.) AGENDAS

Honorable Chairwoman Gray and Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors,

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 12 have helped secure and maintain water access in Los Angeles for over one hundred years. We are proud of our work building the hundreds of miles of aqueducts bringing life-giving water to this region and celebrate that history of great public works. And we are coming to a point in Southern California where we must act to provide water for the future given changes in water politics, the climate, and the urgent need to invest in seismic resilience.

We have, and continue to be, supportive of investments in new sources of local water, such as Los Angeles County's Safe, Clean Water Program, which will build projects that help capture and clean storm water while creating family-sustaining, union jobs.

We also know more is needed to meet the needs of the 19 million people MWD is responsible for. The Regional Recycled Water Program will help do that, by providing 150 million gallons of clean, safe water each day once completed.

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 12 we urge the Metropolitan Water District to **vote YES on the Regional Recycled Water Program's environmental planning phase (Agenda Item #7-3 and #7-4)** to make progress and keep this important project's consideration on track. Without water, we cannot live. Without water, we cannot work.

This investment will also help to create thousands of jobs constructing, operating, and maintaining the project, jobs that should be done by a skilled and trained workforce. These jobs will help stabilize our economy and the lives of our members, their families, their communities, and our region. Our region needs this investment in stable water supply and a stable economy.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Sikorski, Business Manager
I.U.O.E. Local Union No. 12 and
General Vice President