



City of Maywood

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November 10, 2020

Gloria Gray
Chair
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Via Email

Re: Carson Regional Recycling Project, MWD Board Agenda # 7-3

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

The City of Maywood, like most communities in urban Southern California, relies on the availability of safe and affordable supplemental water supplies from MWD as needed. The health and welfare of all the residents and businesses in urban Southern California is dependent on MWD's regional water supply system to continue to provide this essential public service, and to do so despite the challenges of drought, earthquakes, and Climate Change.

In coordination with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, MWD is prudently planning to develop a significant new source of local water supply to augment and complement MWD's imported supplies. Having completed technical feasibility studies, MWD is now considering taking the next important step of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the project.

The major water supply investments that have been made by MWD historically provide a benefit across urban Southern California. All MWD member agencies receive water supply and treatment services at the same cost. As a result, residents and businesses that have access through the MWD member agencies to MWD's water do so at the same cost.

This equitable approach has assured that the price of MWD water and service to low and moderate income persons and communities is no different than in higher income communities, and is consistent with the fundamental principle of the Human Right to Water of equal access for all to safe clean water.

While local water supply costs may vary, it is of particular importance to low and moderate income communities without the means to develop more local supplies, to have access to MWD supplies as needed. With the exception of low cost conservation options, new water supply projects undertaken at the local level often require large subsidies to be competitive with the cost of MWD supplies.

In addition, included in MWD's cost of service are all the water treatment and conveyance

facilities required to provide MWD water to low and moderate income communities on demand.

In effect, low- and moderate-income communities today, as well as all communities served by MWD, reap the benefit of past investments in MWD's water supply resources and delivery system. These past investments make it possible for MWD to provide half of the water needed in the region at a melded per unit cost lower than new supplies developed at today's cost.


The reliability of these MWD supplies is of critical importance to low- and moderate-income communities without the means to develop or purchase alternative supplies.

The MWD Board is reviewing its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to consider how best to plan to continue to provide the reliability needed from MWD under various potential future scenarios. We very much appreciate this review, and urge that the Board keep in mind the particular value MWD provides to low and moderate income residents and businesses through its equitable rate structure and maintenance of existing water supply facilities and resources.

Beyond the numbers of additional acre-feet of supply the proposed Carson Project can bring, as well as other proposed recycling projects in the MWD service area, there is a basic moral obligation we should all recognize. That obligation is to not waste water. This means reusing all our supplies as much as is technically and financially feasible. Recycled water at scale, as planned by MWD and its member agencies, is one of the more cost effective investments that can be made. With the cost spread across the entire MWD service area, as is the case with MWD's other sources of water, the Carson Project water could be the most affordable large new source of local water supply available to the residents of Southern California.

We urge the MWD Board to approve staff's recommendation to proceed with the necessary environmental impacts study for the Carson Project.

Sincerely,



Eduardo "Eddie" De La Riva
Mayor of the City of Maywood

cc: The members of the MWD Board
Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager