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December 4, 2020

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support of Metropolitan's Agreement with Southern Nevada Water Authority for Continued Development of the Regional Recycled Water Program

Dear Chairwoman Gray:

On behalf of the Municipal Water District of Orange County[1] (MWDOC), we are writing in support of Metropolitan entering into an agreement with the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to financially contribute to the environmental planning for the Regional Recycled Water Program. This project is a new step for Metropolitan in further developing local resources and enhancing the region's reliability. MWDOC supports this all-of-the-above approach to deal with Southern California's water resources challenges through the Regional Recycled Water Program, as well as continued investments in water use efficiency, local resources, and a Conveyance solution in the Delta.

The SNWA partnership will provide financial resources to support the necessary planning to develop the Regional Recycled Water Program and may enhance our future ability to assure the affordability of implementing the program.

Metropolitan and SNWA have collaborated on previous projects and agreements involving water supplies and new strategies to help maximize water resources in the West. SNWA has expressed an interest in potentially providing a significant financial contribution towards implementation of the Regional Recycled Water Program in exchange for receiving additional Colorado River supplies from Lake Mead. Although exchanging a portion of Metropolitan's Colorado River supply must be carefully considered, such a partnership would provide multiple benefits to Metropolitan.

Collaborating with SNWA on a regional project will strengthen our relationship and partnership with a fellow Lower Basin State agency, which the state and federal agencies have encouraged. Such a collaboration can be a roadmap to further aid the negotiations along the Colorado River and would likely improve our ability to secure federal funding for our project.

Furthermore, the framework of the proposed terms and conditions for this agreement do not obligate Metropolitan nor SNWA to this water exchange. Rather

this partnership with SNWA will further benefit Metropolitan by providing financial resources to support the planning phase in accordance with the agreement, with little to no risk. Therefore, this opportunity makes good financial sense.

We support the environmental planning for development of significant water reuse in Southern California and the ability to augment regional supplies for Metropolitan's entire service area. Collaborating with agencies on the Colorado River and developing joint regional reliability partnerships, and financial contributions, are clearly helpful in developing large scale projects.

Sincerely,

Sat Tamaribuchi
MWDOC Board President

[1]Municipal Water District of Orange County is a member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, providing imported water to over 3.2 million Orange County residents through 28 retail water agencies. MWDOC is a wholesale water supplier and resource planning agency whose efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education and emergency preparedness.