



May 22, 2019

The Honorable E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair

c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Dear Chair Esquivel,

The City of San Diego faces numerous water supply challenges, including reliance on importing 85 percent of its water from the Colorado River and Northern California, increasing costs of imported water, a growing population and cyclical droughts. These challenges make it imperative to continue to move forward with the City's Pure Water San Diego Program, which will use water purification technology to provide one third of San Diego's water supply locally by 2035.

Since the launch of the Water Purification Demonstration Project in 2010, the City has achieved many important milestones toward improving water reliability. The City is now preparing to begin construction on Phase 1 of the Pure Water Program, which is scheduled to be completed in 2023. Phase 1 will include building the infrastructure, including pump stations, pipelines and treatment plants, to produce 30 million gallons per day of purified water to be added to the local drinking water supply.

In June the city will hold a groundbreaking event for the new North City Pure Water facility. As the Business Manager of the San Diego Building & Construction Trades Council, I represent 23 construction union affiliates with over 30,000 members. I look forward to seeing our skilled and trained workforce being part of such important and necessary projects. We are committed to supporting the City in completing these projects and are excited about seeing the program come to fruition.

In order to complete these projects as scheduled, the City must continue to invest in the Pure Water Program and needs funding to reach additional project milestones. We are pleased to see the Draft Intended Use Plans for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Programs include significant support for the Pure Water Program and respectfully urge the Board to adopt those plans. We fully support the City in its request for financing for these projects and are proud to advocate for the Pure Water Program, which will ensure a sustainable water future for San Diego for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tom Lemmon
Business Manager