

California Legislature

May 30, 2018

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 934836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: California Water Commission Grant Opportunity Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program

Dear Chair Quintero and Members of the Commission,

We, the undersigned, are pleased to strongly support the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) in its development of *The Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage Exchange Program* (Chino Basin Project) grant application, submitted to the California Water Commission for funding provided by the voter-approved 2014 Proposition 1 grant.

We are particularly supportive of this program as it will help to construct an advanced recycled water treatment facility that would store up to 15,000 acre-feet of water per year in the Chino groundwater basin. This reliable resource, which is climate-independent, uses resources of a well-managed and adjudicated Chino Basin, has the capacity to provide 50,000 acre-feet of water to the Delta ecosystem during successive dry years. The Chino Basin Project offers the Delta unique access to a guaranteed, dedicated new water source for 25 years.

After the 25-year period, the facility will be available as a reliable local water source for the Inland Empire region as continued growth will require new water supplies. Additionally, the project will reduce salinity levels and alleviate historical land subsidence issues within the Chino Basin, helping ensure the long term sustainability of the water supplies in the basin.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife recently concluded that the Chino Basin Project will provide valued ecosystem benefits in the Feather River by releasing pulse flows in drier years that will increase the downstream migration and survival of juvenile Chinook salmon. This action, which can be started as early as 2020, provides the ecosystem benefits required for the Proposition 1 funding. The project meets all the categories for the Proposition 1 scoring including a Public Benefit Ratio of 1.23 (currently being considered to be raised to 1.78 by the California Water Commission).

The project has high environmental value both to the Delta and Southern California, is resilient with a new source of water from advanced treated recycled water and is not dependent on Article 21 wet year flows. This project was developed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and has the support of six additional environmental organizations, including Environmental Defense Fund, American Rivers, Trout Unlimited, Golden Gate Salmon Association, Golden Gate

Fishermen's Association, and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association. It also has the support of local water and regulatory agencies including Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Jurupa Community Services District, Monte Vista Water District, Western Municipal Water District, City of Chino Hills, City of Pomona, Chino Basin Watermaster, Chino Basin Desalter Authority, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

We are excited to support this important project that is critical to the Delta and Southern California, and we look forward to the final funding determination that appropriately values this unique project, which provides high environmental value and a resilient source of water.

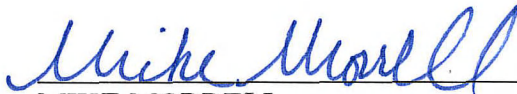
Sincerely,



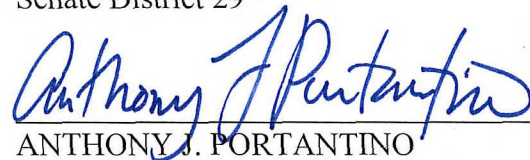
CONNIE M. LEVYA
Senate District 20



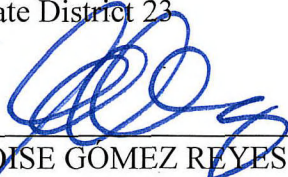
JOSH NEWMAN
Senate District 29



MIKE MORRELL
Senate District 23



ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
Senate District 25



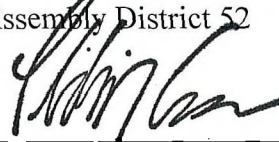
ELOISE GOMEZ REYES
Assembly District 47



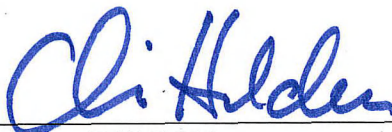
FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
Assembly District 52



MARC STEINORTH
Assembly District 40



PHILLIP CHEN
Assembly District 55



CHRIS R. HOLDEN
Assembly District 41



June 25, 2018

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 934836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: California Water Commission Grant Opportunity Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program

Dear Chair Quintero and Members of the Commission,

As a member of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, I strongly support the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's (IEUA) development of *The Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage Exchange Program* (Chino Basin Project). IEUA has a proven track record of 50+ years of working collaboratively with regional stakeholders and regulatory agencies, and this is an important project for our region, southern California and State.

The Chino Basin Project promotes the Governor's California Water Action Plan and its goals of integration, resilience and sustainability. In our region, a few of the key components of the project include:

- Providing up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of supplemental environmental water to help protect Chinook salmon in the Feather River.
- Improving water quality by protecting salinity levels from increasing in the groundwater basin and alleviating historical subsidence issues. Sixty percent of the water used by the residents of western San Bernardino County comes from Chino Basin groundwater.
- Being located south of the San Andreas Fault, providing facilities to locally produce 50,000 acre-feet from stored groundwater and recycled water supplies will also provide critical emergency benefits in the case of a catastrophic event. This water could supply almost 30% of annual demand in San Bernardino County that normally comes from the State Water Project, during a critical infrastructure failure north of the Tehachapi Mountains.

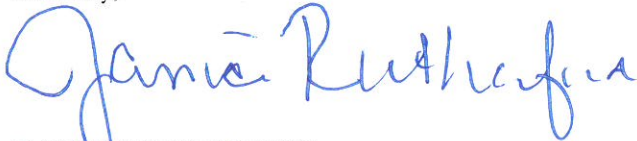
In addition, the Chino Basin Project offers the Delta unique access to a guaranteed, dedicated new water source for 25 years. The project has high environmental value both to the Delta and Southern California, is resilient with a new source of water from advanced treated recycled water and is not dependent on Article 21 wet year flows.

This project was developed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and has the support of six additional environmental organizations, including Environmental Defense Fund, American Rivers, Trout Unlimited, Golden Gate Salmon Association, Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association. It also has the support of local water and

regulatory agencies including Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Jurupa Community Services District, Monte Vista Water District, Western Municipal Water District, City of Chino Hills, City of Pomona, Chino Basin Watermaster, Chino Basin Desalter Authority, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

I am excited to support this important project that is critical to the Delta and Southern California, and we look forward to the final funding determination that appropriately values this unique project, which provides high environmental value and a resilient source of water.

Sincerely,



JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

cc: Halla Razak, General Manager, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

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Assembly California Legislature



FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: PUBLIC EMPLOYEES,
RETIREMENT, AND SOCIAL SECURITY
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE
HEALTH
JOBS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
THE ECONOMY
JOINT COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Email: Assemblymember.Rodriguez@assembly.ca.gov

June 26, 2018

Mr. Armando Quintero
Chair, California Water Commission
P.O. Box 934836
Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: The Chino Basin Project - California Water Commission Grant Opportunity Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program

Dear Chair Quintero,

I am pleased to express my support for the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) in its development of the Chino Basin Conjunctive use Environmental Water Storage Exchange Program (Chino Basin Project) grant application. This project will bring much needed clean water access to my district and ensure our community and local economy is growing.

The 52nd Assembly District has a rich past of agriculture and is still home to farms, dairies and horses. With our past history, in addition to the continued population growth of the Inland Empire, we now have different needs for the future.

This project will bring much needed improvements in water quality, create a new and unique source of water, and provide access to critical water supplies in cases of emergency. An additional 15,000 acre-feet per year of new recycled water will be deposited in the Chino Basin Groundwater Bank for a period of 25 years, while simultaneously improving water quality by increasing available groundwater supplies in the Chino Basin through increased water recycling.

Because of the valuable and critical benefits the Chino Basin Project will bring to my constituents, and the region, in addition to the ecological, environmental and agricultural benefits, I am proud to support their application for funding. I highly encourage the California Water Commission to give this project full consideration and approve its application for funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 319-2052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Freddie Rodriguez".

FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ

Assemblymember, 52nd District

Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Social Security and Retirement

CC: California Water Commissioners