

February 28, 2023

Adán Ortega, Jr.
Chair, Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Re: Call to Action and Commitment to Regional Reliability for All Member Agencies

Dear Mr. Ortega:

On August 16, 2022, the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) affirmed a “call to action” and a commitment to regional reliability for all member agencies, including most especially those six member agencies in its State Water Project Dependent Area (SWP-dependent area) which have limited connection to MWD’s existing infrastructure, storage and supplies. As part of its call to action, the MWD Board of Directors specifically directed MWD management to bring a recommended portfolio of projects and programs, including infrastructure conveyance improvements and an implementation plan, to the MWD Board for approval in February 2023.

MWD management has failed to meet the Board’s specific directive. No portfolio or implementation plan was timely provided to the MWD Board. MWD management has also failed to communicate the reasons for such delay to the parties most affected by the existing and longstanding inequity in MWD’s conveyance infrastructure, which by MWD’s estimate adversely affects six million customers. These parties include the undersigned.

We are deeply disappointed by these failures, which lead us to question whether MWD is truly committed to undertaking the action it promised six months ago.

We understand that member agency staffs (including Calleguas Municipal Water District) and MWD engineering staff have been working on and are in communication about these matters. For example, we are aware of the November 2022 Drought Mitigation Presentation to the Board’s Engineering & Operations Committee and the Board’s December acceptance of \$50 million in state funds to improve the reliability of MWD’s conveyance infrastructure. We are further aware that MWD management may be bringing further information to the MWD Board in mid-March.

We certainly appreciate and support these efforts in furtherance of MWD’s commitment. However, we remain dismayed by the lack of timely progress and lack of communication to the affected SWP-dependent parties—including local water retailers—by MWD management.

We request that the MWD Board of Directors take immediate action: (1) to ensure that MWD management timely meet the Board’s directives; and (2) to instruct MWD management to directly, transparently and regularly update all local retailers of imported state water (including the undersigned), as well as all member agencies, in the SWP-dependent area as to the timely implementation of the Board’s directives. We need assurances that the significant and long overdue commitment to regional supply reliability for all of its customers made by the MWD Board last August does not ring hollow.

We respectfully await your response and action on our request.

Sincerely,