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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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February 27, 2018

The Honorable Anna Caballero
30th Assembly District
P.O. Box 942849,
Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

Subject: AB 2050 (Caballero): The Small System Water Authority Act of 2018 – Support

Dear Assembly Member Caballero:

Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) is pleased to support AB 2050 - *The Small System Water Authority Act of 2018*, and we wish to thank you for addressing this complex and critical issue. The Small System Water Authority Act of 2018 offers sustainable governance reforms necessary to address small water systems that chronically fail to provide safe and reliable drinking water. This bill seeks to establish a new category of public water agency by way of merging formerly non-compliant drinking water systems in order to sustainably provide technical, managerial and financial capabilities to ensure the delivery of safe, clean, affordable and accessible water.

The District recognizes that water accessibility is truly a concern in a number of regions throughout the state and something must be done to address this critical issue. The State Water Resource Control Board has identified 331 systems (as of February 12, 2018) that cannot provide safe drinking water to its customers. These systems often serve less than 10,000 people, are typically located in disadvantaged communities, and are largely privately owned or mutual water companies. Systems that fail to provide access to clean, reliable, drinking water must be held accountable and have a plan to mitigate natural contaminants, manmade contaminants, or fix their under-maintained water systems.

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This bill authorizes the creation of a Small System Water Authority that will be authorized to absorb, improve, and competently operate currently non-compliant public water systems with either contiguous or non-contiguous boundaries. By establishing lasting changes to the governance structures of failing water systems, the state of California will take substantial steps toward achieving their goal of making safe, clean and reliable drinking water a reality for all Californians.

OCWD thanks you for your support in addressing water accessibility issues. If the District could be of assistance to you in the future please do not hesitate to contact OCWD Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin at (714) 378-8232 or adunkin@ocwd.com, or me, if we may be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE, BCEE, F.ASCE
General Manager

cc: Eastern Municipal Water District
California Municipal Utilities Association