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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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May 21, 2020

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Assembly Member, 56th District
State Capitol, Room 4140
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 3256 (E. Garcia): Climate risks: bond measure – Support if Amended

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes regarding your bill AB 3256, which would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Climate Resilience, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020. If approved by voters, this general obligation bond would authorize the issuance of \$6.98 billion in bonds to finance projects related to climate change resilience.

OCWD is the leader in the Orange County area for addressing constituents of emerging concern in water, such as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). More than 1/3rd of the drinking water wells in OCWD's service area are impacted by PFAS and already 42 wells have been shut-down. The District has invested funding and resources to aid 10 local retail water agencies in its' service area to research and develop treatment options for PFAS, pre-purchase treatment vessels, and has used the District's laboratory to perform extensive testing of for PFAS through the watershed. OCWD expects the cost to address PFAS in our service area alone to be approximately \$250 million in capital costs and \$850 million over a thirty-year period. For these reasons, OCWD respectfully requests AB 3256 is amended to include the following:

“The sum of five hundred million (\$500,000,000) shall be available to the State Water Resources Control Board for effective water treatment that will advance climate resiliency and ensuring safe drinking water through a grant program for treatment to address constituents of emerging concern such as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).”

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Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If the District can provide any assistance to you or your staff in any way, please do not hesitate to contact OCWD's Legislative Liaison, Alicia Dunkin, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 477-3750.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vicente Sarmiento".

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.