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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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July 8, 2015

Honorable Susan Eggman
Assembly Member, CA 13
Capitol Building, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: AB 647 Beneficial Use: The Storage of Water Underground—Letter of Support

Dear Assembly Member Eggman:

On behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District), I would like to thank you for your willingness to work with stakeholders and take amendments to AB 647 (Eggman). The bill, as amended, preserves the District's existing water rights permit and the OCWD is supportive of the bill.

Currently, OCWD has an appropriative water rights permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board authorizing OCWD to divert up to 362,000 acre-feet per year to groundwater storage from the Santa Ana River.

In recent amendments to AB 647, you addressed our concern that the bill could have been construed to require an existing water right holder, such as OCWD, that diverts water to groundwater storage under an existing water rights permit to nevertheless seek a change petition from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) whenever the water right holder intends to use the water for basin management purposes (such as the recovery of depleted groundwater levels, or control of water quality degradation). Specifically, the following amendment addresses our above mentioned concern:

“(c) For any person holding a permit or license in which the board has authorized, on or before January 1, 2016, the underground storage of water, the diversion of water to underground storage consistent with that permit or license is presumed to meet the condition described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).”

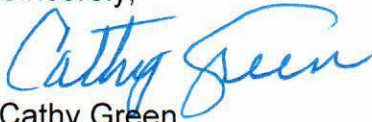
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Again, we thank you for your willingness to work with stakeholders, including the OCWD, and we are supportive of AB 647 (Eggman). Please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 or me if you have any questions or if we may be of assistance to you or your staff in any way.

Sincerely,



Cathy Green
President

CC: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water