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September 17, 2026

The Honorable Pat Fallon
U.S. House of Representatives
2416 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brittany Pettersen
U.S. House of Representatives
348 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: H.R 2766 Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act – Support

Dear Representatives Fallon and Pettersen:

On behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the more than 2.5 million residents we serve in north and central Orange County, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 2766 Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act that would establish a formal federal definition of "special district" to ensure Special Districts are defined as local governments and eligible for various forms of federal assistance, including grants, that current law fails to recognize.

OCWD is a special district formed in 1933 by an act of the California State Legislature. The District was created to protect Orange County's rights to Santa Ana River water and to manage the vast Orange County Groundwater Basin that provides 85% of the water supply for 2.5 million residents. For OCWD, potential funding sources from H.R. 2766 could include FEMA and other federal avenues, such as previously unavailable COVID-19 relief funds.

Again, we support H.R 2766 and appreciate your leadership to develop policy solutions to ensure a safe, reliable and affordable water supply for California's communities. If you have any questions, please contact me or Alicia Harasty, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at (714) 477-3750 or aharasty@ocwd.com.

Sincerely,

Denis R. Bilodeau

Denis R. Bilodeau, P.E.
President, OCWD

cc:
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)
Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Representative Young Kim (CA-40)
Representative Derek Tran (CA-45)
Representative Lou Correa (D-46)
Representative Dave Min (D-47)

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