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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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April 20, 2015

The Honorable Mimi Walters
United States House of Representatives
3333 Michelson Drive, Suite 230
Irvine, CA 92612

Re: H.R. 813 Fixing Operations of Reservoirs to Encompass Climatic and Atmospheric Science Trends (FORECAST) Act—Support and Amend

Dear Congresswoman Walters:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) manages the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which provides 70 percent of the water supply to 2.4 million people in north and central Orange County. To replace the groundwater that is pumped out of the basin every year, OCWD has a proactive program to refill the basin through various sources, including stormflows. OCWD requests your support to enhance the capture of water from stormflows by enacting H.R. 813 Fixing Operations of Reservoirs to Encompass Climatic and Atmospheric Science Trends (FORECAST) Act.

In collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the District now has the opportunity to provide an additional 30,000 acre-feet of water annually (enough water for about 250,000 people) by temporarily capturing additional stormwater at Prado Dam. Prado Dam, located on the upper Santa Ana River, is used for flood prevention, temporary stormwater capture and subsequent recharge of the stormwater into the groundwater basin for dry times—like now.

Our cooperative efforts to capture stormwater for beneficial use would be assisted by H.R. 813 through modernizing weather and runoff forecasting. H.R. 813, introduced by Representative Jared Huffman of San Rafael, would have the Corps work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to modify Corps operation manuals to account for the latest weather and runoff forecasting capabilities.

The District is in support of H.R. 813 and would like the bill amended to allow local water districts, such as OCWD, to work with the Corps on water conservation at Prado Dam. The bill sponsor is amenable to such a change.

Congresswoman Walters
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By working collaboratively, we have saved Orange County ratepayers approximately \$30 million dollars per year by capturing water which, otherwise, would have run to the ocean from Prado Dam. OCWD is currently working with the Corps to increase the amount of water conservation for the future.

We sincerely thank you for your support to: (1) enact the language in H.R. 813; and, (2) amend the bill to allow water districts to request that the Corps work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration so that dam-related operation manuals account for the latest weather and runoff forecasting capabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 if you have any questions or if we may be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" being more prominent than the last name "Green".

Cathy Green
President