



SENT VIA EMAIL

February 19, 2026

Ms. Amanda Cruz
Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Subject: Support for EPA Proposed Plan – Orange County North Basin Interim Remedy

Dear Ms. Cruz:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the undersigned local water providers within the OCWD service area support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Proposed Plan for the Orange County North Basin Interim Remedy.

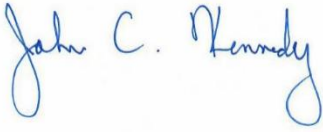
The Feasibility Study supporting the Proposed Plan evaluates remedial technologies and interim alternatives. Based on EPA's analysis, Alternative 4 – groundwater extraction, treatment, and reinjection – has been identified as the preferred interim remedy.

As described in the Proposed Plan and Feasibility Study, Alternative 4 is expected to provide hydraulic containment of the contaminated groundwater plume within the Shallow Zone and limit further lateral and vertical migration. This interim action protects groundwater resources relied upon by local water agencies.

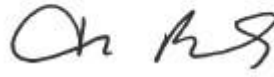
Groundwater is a highly valuable local resource and supplies approximately 85% of the water used by approximately 2.5 million residents and businesses within the OCWD service area. It is the region's most reliable supply, including during prolonged drought conditions, and provides greater stability than imported sources. Protecting and maintaining the quality of this groundwater resource is essential to long-term water supply sustainability.

OCWD and the undersigned water providers appreciate EPA's efforts to protect this local groundwater resource and look forward to continued coordination with EPA as the interim remedy proceeds through decision-making and implementation.

Respectfully submitted,



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