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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
 ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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June 26, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
 United States Senate
 493 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 1331 Seasonal Forecasting Improvement Act--Support

Dear Senator Thune:


On behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District), I would like to express support for S. 1331, the Seasonal Forecasting Improvement Act. S. 1331 authorizes \$26.5 million each year through FY 2020 to enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve seasonal forecasts, defined as periods of more than two weeks and less than two years. The bill would establish a weather commission to assess NOAA's forecasts and report to Congress. The bill also addresses weather satellite procurement, requiring that equipment integrate with current ground systems, and represents the best value for federal investment. OCWD fully supports the enactment of the Seasonal Forecasting Improvement Act. A deeper scientific understanding of the climate in the seasonal-range has potential to benefit all citizens of the United States.

OCWD supports S. 1331 because improving seasonal forecasts will help the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, other federal agencies, and the State of California to better plan for extreme weather events. As you are aware, the State is in its fourth year of drought, which has stressed our potable water supply. Improved forecasting will allow the Corps to better plan for water conservation and storage at federal facilities such as Prado Dam, where a water conservation program between OCWD and the Corps has been in place for 25 years.

In addition, S. 1331 will provide grant funds for a forecast communications coordinator. This coordinator's scientific knowledge will ensure that our planning efforts incorporate new forecasting capabilities.

Thank you for consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 or myself 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: Senator Barbara Boxer
 Senator Dianne Feinstein