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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

March 26, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

RE: S. 91 Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act - Support

Dear Senator Sinema:

Orange County Water District (OCWD: the District) writes in support of S. 91, by Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and co-sponsored by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and John Cornyn (R-TX). The Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act S. 91 would make "special-purpose public entities" (special districts) eligible to receive future federal coronavirus relief assistance to ensure delivery of essential public health and safety services. OCWD supports establishing grants or other funding opportunities for local and regional water suppliers, which S. 91 may provide.

S. 91 establishes a federal definition of special district as a "political subdivision of a state, formed pursuant to general law or special act of the state, for the purpose of performing one or more governmental or proprietary functions." The bill requires a state to distribute five percent of future Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocations to special districts within 60 days of receiving federal allocation.

Funds provided to special districts would not come from those directed to city or counties for COVID relief, but instead would be derived from any state allocated federal assistance. The bill directs U.S. Department of Treasury to consider special districts as eligible issuers to take advantage of the Federal Reserve Board's Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF). Created under the CARES Act, the MLF has been successful in helping state and local governments manage cash flow pressures they faced as a result of the increase in state and local government expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the delay and decrease of certain tax and other revenues.

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Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or OCWD Legislative Liaison Alicia Dunkin at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 if you have any questions and/or if we may be of any assistance on water policy issues in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Markus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE
General Manager

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)
Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)
Representative Mike Levin (CA-49)
Representative Michelle Steele (CA-48)
Representative Alan Lowenthal (CA-47)
Representative Louis Correa, (CA-46)
Representative Katie Porter (CA-45)
Representative Young Kim (CA-39)
Representative Linda Sanchez (CA-38)