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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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April 20, 2020

The Honorable William Dodd
State Capitol
Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1099 (Dodd) Emergency Backup Generators: Critical Facilities:
Exemption - Support

Dear Senator Dodd:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes in support of your bill, SB 1099, which is co-sponsored by the California Municipal Utilities Association, and the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. SB 1099 would allow critical facilities, including water and wastewater agencies, to operate existing emergency backup generators during Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) or other losses of power without being out of compliance or subject to penalties from local air districts. This flexibility would ensure water continues to flow and wastewater continues to be treated during power outages, protecting public health and safety.

In addition, SB 1099 directs local air districts to adopt a rule, or revise existing rules, to allow critical facilities with a permitted emergency backup generator to continue to provide essential public services during a power outage without those hours counting toward the limits. Specifically, it allows critical facilities to operate the generator during a PSPS or other emergency loss of power and test or maintain the generator in accordance with NFPA Standard 110 or relevant best management practices. For these reasons OCWD supports SB 1099. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If the District can provide any assistance to you or your staff in any way, please do not hesitate to contact OCWD's Legislative Liaison, Alicia Dunkin, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 477-3750.

Sincerely,

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
Board President