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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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April 3, 2019

The Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Senate, District 3
State Capitol, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 19 Water Resources: Stream Gages - Support

Dear Senator Dodd:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes to express its support of SB 19 (Dodd), which would require the Department of Water Resources (Department) and the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to develop a plan to deploy a network of stream gages that includes a determination of funding needs and opportunities for modernizing and reactivating existing gages and deploying new gages.

SB 19 would require the department and the board, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Conservation, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, interested stakeholders, and, to the extent they wish to consult, local agencies, to develop the plan to address significant gaps in information necessary for water management and the conservation of freshwater species. The bill would require the Department and the Board to give priority in the plan to placing or modernizing and reactivating stream gages where lack of data contributes to conflicts in water management or where water can be more effectively managed for multiple benefits and to consider specified criteria in developing the plan.

During large precipitation events, the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) relies on stream gauge measurements to estimate the amount of stormflow that will be reaching Prado Dam from the Santa Ana River (SAR) and tributaries to the river. One of the stream gauge stations above Prado Dam, the SAR at Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Crossing, suffers from inaccuracies. The lack of high-quality data from the MWD Crossing gauge limits the Corps' ability to understand inflow rates during storm events, which may affect the ability of the Corps to optimize stormwater capture at Prado Dam. This bill would improve stream gages that could help improve stormwater capture at Prado Dam.

Honorable Bill Dodd

April 3, 2019

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For the above reasons, OCWD is writing in support of SB 19. Please contact OCWD Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin at (714) 477-3750 or adunkin@ocwd.com, or me, if we may be of any assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vicente Sarmiento", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
Board President