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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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June 13, 2019

The Honorable William Monning
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4040
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 200 (Monning) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund - Support

Dear Senator Monning:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes to express its support of SB 200 (Monning), which would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (the Fund) in the State Treasury. This includes a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund continuous appropriation, without water fees or taxes, to provide the funding source for SB 200 of \$130 million of funds every year in perpetuity. In addition, OCWD would respectfully request that not only the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) make maps of aquifers as required by SB 200, but also those agencies with knowledge of local aquifers to provide such maps to ensure accuracy, such as OCWD.

Most Californians have safe drinking water, but some disadvantaged communities in California do not. For some communities, this is due to the lack of financial capacity. The Fund may be used to support projects such as water system operation and maintenance costs, consolidation costs, the purchase of replacement water to provide safe drinking water as a short term solution, and providing administrative or managerial services to help water systems become self-sufficient for the long-term.

In addition to establishing the Fund, SB 200 would also require the State Board, in consultation with local health officers and other relevant stakeholders, to use available data to make a map of aquifers that are at high-risk of containing contaminants that exceed safe drinking water standards and are used or likely to be used as a source of drinking water for a state small water system or a domestic well.

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For the above reasons, OCWD is writing in support of SB 200. Please contact OCWD Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin at (714) 477-3750 or adunkin@ocwd.com, or me, if you have any questions and/or if we may be of any assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicente Sarmiento". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "S".

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
Board President