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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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July 14, 2015

Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: SB 355 (Lara) Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Board – Support

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the Orange County Water District, I would like to thank you for your willingness to work with stakeholders in Orange County and make amendments to SB 355 (Lara). The bill, as amended, preserves Orange County's voting representation on the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Board.

We agree with your amendments that it is important to have representatives of cities that border the lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel rivers. We also feel that it is vital to maintain Orange County's voting members that represent the voice of a regional partner. The RMC is a critical pathway to regional collaboration on environmental and water quality issues. Ensuring broad representation on the RMC offers an effective strategy to developing programs and procuring funds through Proposition 1, or other vehicles, to achieve regional objectives.

Again, we appreciate your efforts to amend SB 355 to ensure adequate representation for all of the regional partners. For this and the reasons described above, the Orange County Water District is supportive of the bill. Please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 if you have any questions or if we may be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Cathy Green
President