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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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April 20, 2015

The Honorable Fran Pavley  
Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water  
State Capitol, Room 5108  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 758 (Block) Atmospheric Rivers Research and Mitigation Program--Support

Dear Senator Pavley:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) manages the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which provides 70 percent of the water supply for the 2.4 million people in north and central Orange County. OCWD requests your support to enhance the capture of water from stormflows by enacting SB 758.

With the help of SB 758, the District will have the opportunity to provide an additional 30,000 acre-feet of water annually (enough water for about 250,000 people) by temporarily capturing additional stormwater at Prado Dam. Prado Dam, located on the upper Santa Ana River, is used for flood prevention, temporary stormwater capture and subsequent recharge of the stormwater into the groundwater basin for dry times—like now.

SB 758 will assist our efforts to capture stormwater for beneficial use by accurately predicting and quantifying precipitation from atmospheric rivers, thus enabling reservoir operators to safely store additional water for use in drought periods. The District has saved Orange County ratepayers approximately \$30 million dollars per year by capturing water which, otherwise, would have run to the ocean from Prado Dam.

We sincerely thank you for your support of SB 758. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at [adunkin@ocwd.com](mailto: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