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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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April 20, 2020

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
State Capitol
Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 996 (Portantino) State Water Resources Control Board:
Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) – Support

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes in support of your bill SB 996, which is co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the California Municipal Utilities Association. SB 996 would require the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to establish and then maintain an ongoing, dedicated program for Constituents of Emerging Concern (CEC) to support and conduct assessments on and provide recommendations of issues with water that may pose a risk to the public.

In addition, the Board would create a Science Advisory Panel to gather and develop information for the program. The bill would require the program to provide opportunities for public participation through the creation of a Stakeholder Advisory Group. SB 996 would also establish in the State Treasury the CEC Action Fund, which would be administered by the Board.

OCWD is in support of SB 996 as it would set up a consistent and science-based approach for assessing which CECs warrant further action. 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