



Yorba Linda Water District

*Reliable and Trusted Service
for More Than 100 Years*

September 1, 2015

Mike Markus, General Manager
Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Subject: Public Hearing to Consider Changing the BPP for FY 2015-16

Dear Mr. Markus,

Let me begin by commending the Orange County Water District (OCWD) for its assertive management of the groundwater basin and efforts to maximize its capabilities for the continuing benefit of the communities in north and central Orange County. Without the groundwater basin and the efforts of OCWD, our local communities would be considerably more challenged, in light of the unprecedented drought, to comply with the Emergency Declaration and cutbacks mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Recently, the Groundwater Producers were individually asked to identify one of three options relative to the BPP that their agency would recommend that the OCWD Board consider for the remainder of FY 2015-16. The recommendation of Yorba Linda Water District is Option 2, which is to maintain the existing BPP of 70%. However, our recommendation is for what we refer to as "Option 2A." That is, we recommend that the BPP remain at 70% and that OCWD aggressively pursue the purchase of available excess allocation water from MWDOC, with that water recharged to mitigate the dangerously high overdraft of the groundwater basin.

In recent presentations to the Groundwater Producers and to the OCWD Water Issues Committee, you have stated that there is no guarantee that the drought will not continue for another year or years into the future. That being the case, and the already high overdraft of the groundwater basin at 381,000 acre-feet, it is incumbent on OCWD to take your recommendation of "a more conservative approach," to protect and improve the condition of the basin by buying and recharging all available water it can.

In summary, increasing the BPP to 76% for the remainder of FY 2015-16 would result in a short-term financial benefit for those agencies that can pump up to 76% of their demand. However, the higher pumping would not improve the condition of the basin at a time when restraint is called for to protect our basin for the long term.

YLWD recommends maintaining the BPP at 70% and aggressively increasing recharge.

Sincerely,

Marc Marcantonio
General Manager

CC: OCWD Board of Directors
YLWD Board of Directors

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