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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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June 9, 2022

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
California Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

RE: SB 1157 (Hertzberg) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use – Oppose Unless Amended

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) is writing to respectfully express our position of oppose unless amended on SB 1157 (Hertzberg). Unfortunately the indoor water use standards in SB 1157 were not based on a quantitative analysis of the impacts these standards might have. In particular, OCWD is concerned that these standards could eventually lead to the stranding of significant assets, including potable reuse facilities.

As you are aware, OCWD is a global leader in water resiliency and is dedicated to the development of a sustainable, safe water supply for 2.5 million people. Home to the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the world's largest water recycling project for potable use, OCWD is currently constructing the GWRS Final Expansion that, when completed in early 2023, will provide enough water for one million Orange County residents. The GWRS represents a significant investment by Orange County ratepayers. That investment results in an extremely sustainable supply of water for Orange County.

Given the sustainability of the GWRS and its supply of recycled water for potable use, as well as the substantial investment made by ratepayers, OCWD is requesting the following amendment which would ensure that the wastewater flows needed to supply GWRS are maintained:

“10609.4 (a) (4) The standard for indoor residential water use shall be 55 gallons per capita daily for those water agencies that augment their water supply with potable reused water which uses reverse osmosis as a part of its treatment process and who reuses at least 100% of the recyclable wastewater in its service area.”

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Thank you for your consideration of the above amendment. If you have any questions and/or would like any additional information, please contact Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin at (714) 477-3750 or adunkin@ocwd.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis R. Bilodeau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Denis R. Bilodeau, P.E.
Director