

DIRECTORS

DENIS R. BILODEAU, P.E.
CATHY GREEN
GLORIA MA'AE
NELIDA MENDOZA
DINA L. NGUYEN, ESQ.
KELLY E. ROWE, C.E.G., C.H.
STEPHEN R. SHELDON
TRI TA
BRUCE WHITAKER
ROGER C. YOH, P.E.



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

OFFICERS

President
STEPHEN R. SHELDON
First Vice President
CATHY GREEN
Second Vice President
TRI TA
General Manager
MICHAEL R. MARKUS, P.E., D.WRE

September 2, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 1157 (Hertzberg) – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of Orange County Water District (OCWD), I respectfully request that you veto SB 1157 by Senator Robert Hertzberg.

OCWD has invested nearly one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) of their rate payers tax dollars in the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). Operational since 2008, the GWRS is the world's largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse. As a potable reuse project, the system relies upon highly treated wastewater that is purified for human consumption. Before OCWD constructed the GWRS, the highly treated wastewater was discharged into the Pacific Ocean; now, it goes through an intense purification process and provides water to people. The GWRS can produce up to 100 million gallons per day (MGD) of this high-quality water. This is enough water to meet the annual needs of nearly 850,000 residents in north and central Orange County. OCWD is in the process of expanding the GWRS increasing treatment capacity from 100 to 130 MGD; enough water to serve one million people each year.

OCWD has great respect for Senator Hertzberg, who has been a strong supporter of the GWRS over the years. OCWD worked for months with Senator Hertzberg and his staff to try to ensure that SB 1157 recognized the unique investment ratepayers have made in the GWRS to efficiently reuse wastewater to the highest capacity and to dramatically reduce discharge to the ocean; an investment made voluntarily and without the need for a legislative mandate. While the final amendments to the bill attempt to recognize the need and value of recycled water to projects like GWRS, they fall far short of the recognition that ratepayers in north and central Orange County deserve, in light of their visionary investment in the GWRS. For that reason, regrettably, we respectfully request that you veto SB 1157.

Sincerely,

Tri Ta
Vice President

cc: Honorable Tom Daly, 69th Assembly District
Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris, 74th Assembly District
Honorable Susan Quirk-Silva, 65th Assembly District
Honorable Robert Hertzberg, 18th Senate District