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February 14, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
US House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Olivenhain Municipal Water District is pleased to lend its support to the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act. We very much appreciate the transparent process that you are undertaking, and the opportunity to review the draft legislation before it is formally filed as a bill.

OMWD is a multi-function public agency providing water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and the operation of Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Incorporated in 1959, OMWD is dedicated to meeting the water supply needs for residents and businesses within its service area. At over 48 square miles, OMWD serves approximately 86,000 customers in Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Diego, San Marcos, Solana Beach, and neighboring communities.

We are particularly supportive of the expanded reauthorization for the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Water Reuse and Recycling competitive grant program. OMWD serves the semi-arid region of north San Diego County. We have expanded our recycled water system by retrofitting eight connections in 2019 alone. The conversion to recycled water at just one sports park will save up to an estimated 100 million gallons of potable water per year. Expanding our recycled water system reduces imported water demand and improves sustainability. We continue to pursue joint projects with our regional partners in the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition finding regional and collaborative approaches to be amongst the most effective. The federal dollars made available to OMWD through Title XVI are absolutely critical in providing planning and startup money to make projects such as these feasible.

In addition to expanding recycled water infrastructure, OMWD continues to investigate the feasibility of the San Dieguito Valley Brackish Groundwater Desalination Project. OMWD completed the installation of a pilot test well this year. Aquifer testing is underway and is a crucial next step to determine whether this project should move forward. For that reason, we are very supportive of the inclusion of Congressman Mike Levin's Desalination Development Act (H.R. 3723) as Section 105 of your draft bill. Congressman Levin's congressional district includes Olivenhain, and we appreciate the attention and energy our congressman has devoted to water resource issues. We also think that the investment made in new desalination research in



Section 203 of your bill -- raising the authorized funding level from \$3 million to \$20 million annually -- is an important contribution in making more desalination projects commercially viable and environmentally sustainable.

Mr. Chairman, we are encouraged by the leadership that you and your committee are exerting on water infrastructure legislation. We look forward to working with you and your subcommittee as the process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 760-753-6466 or kthorner@olivenhain.com if you any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kimberly A. Thorner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimberly A. Thorner
General Manager