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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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January 22, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

RE: Draft Future Drought Resiliency Act of 2020 - Support

Dear Congressman Huffman:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) would like to express its strong support of your draft bill, the Future Drought Resiliency Act of 2020. This legislation provides \$10 million annually to prepare for and process Water Control Manual Updates for forecast informed reservoir operations (FIRO) projects and funds water recycling projects that both aid in increased water reliability in California.

The District greatly appreciates the funding of FIRO projects. Developing tools and techniques to incorporate better forecasts of extreme rainfall events into their management processes, water managers may be able to retain water they would otherwise release, resulting in cost savings and a more reliable water supply while preserving and enhancing flood control capabilities. These improved forecasts and new tools can be tailored by water managers into their operations and used in water control manual updates. For Orange County alone, this may lead to an additional water capture at Prado Dam of 15,000 acre-feet in a wet year or enough water for 120,000 people.

As you know, OCWD built and operates the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the largest potable water recycling facility in the world. The District recently broke ground in November 2019 on the GWRS Final Expansion, which will allow OCWD to recycle 130 million gallons per day. This facility and its two expansions would not have been possible without funding for recycled water projects.

The Honorable Jared Huffman
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For the above reasons, OCWD is writing in support of the draft Future Drought Resiliency Act of 2020. Please contact OCWD Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin at (714) 477- 3750 or adunkin@ocwd.com, or me, if you have any questions and/or if we may be of any assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
President

cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-38)
Congressman Gil Cisneros (CA-39)
Congresswoman Katie Porter (CA-45)
Congressman Jose Luis Correa (CA-46)
Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA-47)
Congressman Harley Rouda (CA-48)
Congressman Mike Levin (CA-49)