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April 21, 2015

The Honorable Randy R. Record  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles CA 90012-2944

The Honorable Larry Dick  
President, Board of Directors  
Municipal Water District of Orange County  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley CA 92708

**RE: The Proposed Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project –  
SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Record and Director Dick -

On behalf of the Association of California Cities – Orange County's (ACC-OC) Board of Directors, I respectfully offer our support for the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project (Project). Our organization was founded on the core ideal that local solutions are often the best solutions. The Project exemplifies the power of local government innovation and we respectfully request your support for its completion.

Our region requires a water supply that is reliable, safe and reasonably priced, which is why the ACC-OC has made water one of its most critical policy concerns. The current extreme drought shows how important this issue is and greatly deepens our concerns. Yet, as our region has done throughout our history, we've innovated our way to solutions to mitigate these impacts.

The Project is yet another successful demonstration of this ingenuity, local control and collaborative public policymaking. Moreover, it is one of the few nearly shovel-ready new water supply projects serving our region. Over its 50-year term, the Project would bring over 2.5 million acre-feet of high-quality water to Southern California – enough to serve more than 100,000 families every year for half a century. A significant portion of this water would come to Orange County, helping to ensure greater water supply reliability for the 200,000 county residents served by Santa Margarita Water District and Golden State Water Company in Orange County.

The Project is sustainable, as the County of San Bernardino will monitor over 40 data points from the aquifer and surrounding springs and wells and has authority to slow or stop pumping to protect the aquifer or the environment. The Project is also environmentally sensitive, as all litigation



challenging its environmental approval was dismissed by Orange County Superior Court. We believe it also could have broader regional environmental benefits, as well.

To weather this and future droughts, California and our region need a more broadly diversified, more reliable portfolio of water sources. Approval and construction of the Project will help to realize this all-important goal. We encourage the Boards of Directors of the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to give the Cadiz Valley Water Project a favorable review, and ask they you do all you can to expedite its construction.

As the hub for good public policy in Orange County, the ACC-OC has studied and deliberated over the Project. The conclusion was simple: please support its rapid approval and construction to help bring water security to Orange County and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lacy Schoen Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lacy Kelly  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of California Cities - Orange County

CC: Congresswoman Mimi Walters  
Supervisor Lisa Bartlett  
Board of Directors, MWD  
Board of Directors, MWDOC  
Jeffery Kightlinger, General Manager, MWD  
Rob Hunter, General Manager, MWDOC  
ACC-OC Board of Directors