Friday, October 7, 2022

California Coastal Commission
445 Market St., Ste. 300,
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Application No.: 9-20-0691 Doheny Desalination Project, Well Field, Treatment Plant, Reject Discharge, and Uses Item #10 a

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Society of Native Nations, Sierra Club, 350.org, Desal Response Group, Southern California Watershed Alliance, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water and Social Eco Education, we write to address the staff report and FEIR for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project proposed by South Coast Water District in South Orange County. We value the staff report and the time spent with the staff to address most of our concerns through said report, however we must oppose this project and we ask that you do as well.

The Project application is inadequate and incomplete and does not provide CEQA Support for the California Coastal Commission's considerations of the application as it is currently composed.

On September 28th, Governor Newsom signed Hertzberg's AB 1157 Urban Water Use into law.

In 2018, the Legislature approved SB 606 (Hertzberg) and AB 1668 (Friedman), which established a foundation for long-term water efficiency improvements to enhance the state's resiliency to drought. The measures enacted indoor residential water use standards at 55 gallons per capita daily (gpcd) until 2025, 52.5 gpcd between 2025 to 2030, and 50 gpcd for 2030 and beyond. Recognizing the need for additional data on indoor residential water use, the Legislature authorized DWR and the SWRCB to conduct necessary studies and jointly recommend updated standards that more appropriately reflect best practices. Based upon extensive analysis of the best available data and information, DWR and the SWRCB determined the statewide median water use for 2017 through 2019 was already at or below the 2030 standard, and jointly concluded the indoor residential water use standards should be updated.

SB 1157 (Hertzberg) enhances California's water efficiency by updating statutory indoor residential water use standards to 47 gpcd between 2025 to 2030, and 42 gpcd for 2030 and beyond – as recommended by DWR and SWRCB.

Tribal & Environmental Justice Policy regarding Doheny:

Society of Native Nations concerns are focused on the existing waterways as they are old and outdated. We are concerned the recycling plant's infrastructure as proposed may not be sufficient. This proposed desalination plant offers a design to carry the brine - chemical waste to be filtered through and to take on the volume, the velocity, and the condensed salt, as safe containment and dumping directly into the ocean. The existing waterways were not designed to handle toxic waste and may result in poisoning and compromising multiple communities along its path. We cannot afford to further harm the environment; we cannot continue killing marine life, and exposing toxic waste to so many.

Who is monitoring?

Will this Doheny Plant have the same unresolved challenges and issues as the Carlsbad Desal Plant?

There is zero environmental assurance and/or environmental trust. As we address the California Coastal Act: there is a failure to demonstrate need when we are nowhere near reducing water waste and water use, collectively. As proposed, the project will increase the salinity of discharge and wastewater volumes on regulated coastal receiving waters frequented by migrating whales as well as dolphins and other marine life.

Society of Native Nations is certain our Ancestors would want us to protect the ocean, the land, our marine relatives, and the people. It is great to hear we are set to protect cultural artifacts and possibly Ancestral remains - however we need to defend, protect, and honor the ocean for 7 generations to come.

ENGINEERING

South Coast Water District is proposing to build and operate the Doheny Desalination Project (Project) facility in the City of Dana Point. The Project treatment facilities would be located on

the south side and on the southern floodplain/bank of the Sycamore/San Juan Creek and across from the existing Sewage Treatment Plant. The Project also includes (e.g., 10+ wells of 50+ft length and at depths of -20ft) in the Doheny State Beach on the northerly floodplain (1400ft) at the mouth of the Creek. The wells would provide influent via a pump station and pipelines in parallel with other pipelines to the existing sewage treatment plant, from which it would continue southerly crossing the Creek to the Project's Desalination (desal) Treatment Facilities. After desal processing, the rejected seawater brine and wastewaters would be collected and conveyed north across the Creek to the sewage treatment plant. Current outfall plans require combining desal wastewater effluent to be combined with sewage treatment plant effluent before discharge, 1600ft south of the sewage treatment plant through the existing sewage treatment plant effluent outfall.

The Project would provide water to ratepayers throughout the District's nearby service areas and would reduce the area's reliance on imported water from other parts of the state and county or even district, that is delivered through pipelines from northeastern Orange County. All ratepayers within SCWD would pay for the total costs of the Project and operations.

The Project would use several design elements preferred under the state's Ocean Plan for seawater desalination facilities because they are meant to avoid or reduce potential impacts to marine life and water quality:

- ➢ Widely located well sources along/beneath up to 1400ft of beach
- ➢ Combining very lower saline/freshwater sewage treated effluent (e.g., 800ppm) with x2-x3 seawater salinity (e.g., 80,000ppm) with pipeline mixing before discharge to open marine waters (e.g., 30,000ppm).

Pursuant to the best available information, the CCC must consider more coast zone protective alternatives of groundwater/freshwater sourcing and groundwater storage of processed water supply for the Desal Plant and focus on sources of less than 10ppt groundwater sources and within 5000ft upstream of the plant ("Stonehill Drive Alternative") and equal/greater than 4800 feet inland/NE from the shoreline. Depending on the Creek's water quality, the Project reject/effluent waters could be directly discharged to the lower Creek reaches or combined with the sewage treated plant effluent and discharged as currently located. Siting potable water sourcing of seawater along the existing beaches adds an unnecessary element of risk/hazard for the coastal zone with needs of protecting water sourcing rather than the coastal ecosystem and processes.

A second alternative (Domingo Alternative) must consider use of the current treated sewage treatment plant effluent as the source/influent for the Desal or Supply Purification Plant (Pure Water Plant, PWP) for direct potable reuse rather than continuing discharges to the ocean. The PWP would use the existing sewage treatment plant effluent pipeline/outfall for discharges of PWP effluent with some mitigation of improved outfall mixing and dispersion or even adding pumped seawater into the effluent pipeline/outfall.

A third alternative with longer term water supply implications would combine groundwater and sewage treatment plant effluent for a larger scale treatment/purification facility and perhaps be more cost effective and less directly impacting on the coastal zone area and shallow marine waters by using the same outfall but with some improvements for mixing.

- ❖ Elevation, Storage and Distribution

Because of the relative low elevation of the proposed plant (+15ft amsl), pressures and pumping requirements may focus nighttime low demand service conditions in the coastal service areas and require storage elsewhere even for the relatively low (5MGD) initial production and more so if increased to reported 15MGD future targets. The initial Desal Plant has been proposed with storage of at least One Million Gallons of Desal water rather than using existing available storage including groundwater recharges. Therefore, nighttime production would be stored for distribution during daytime uses of the low elevation coastal zone residents. Costs for new storage would be paid via the rate structure for the entire Water District, not by those receiving the improved Desal supply.

Typical desal operation involves maintaining consistent if not constant intake and processing for 24/7/365 period in order to assure most cost-efficient operations and maintenance. The proposed Project involves an initial 5MGD (208,400 gal/hr) capacity with undetermined capability of increasing to 15 MGD in the future. Even at the initial flow rates, nighttime (10pm-7am) user rates may be less than 10% of total flows available (<21,000 gal/hr), leaving the remaining unused portion for storage, e.g., 185,000gal/hr x 9 hrs = 1.5MG (30% of daily capacity). The Project does provide for tank storage on the Project Site, and stored water would be dispensed during the typical user day for even a larger service population. However, such low elevation tankage requires supplemental distribution pumping capacity which has not been adequately discussed, especially remembering that the distribution pumps may be sitting idle at night while additional pumping capacity is required during the day if Project site storage is approved.

An alternative depends on the distribution system, and no adequate model has been provided for distribution/storage tanks, so as to locate at appropriate elevations such tanks distributed throughout the Desal service area for optimal daytime supplies and pressures. The Project is inadequately modeled and must be delayed until such modeling is provided, especially as the water supply would be assumed to serve the coastal zone and the CCC jurisdiction. With modeling, service/user benefits can be assessed regarding who pays and who benefits and adjustments could be made for those who benefit more, paying more and fair sharing of costs and benefits.

- ❖ Groundwater

Insufficient information is available regarding groundwater layering and infiltration of runoff infiltration from parking lots, user areas, and restrooms in the Park, roadways adjacent to it, the zones of influence of the wells and their various pumping phases. Similarly, groundwater

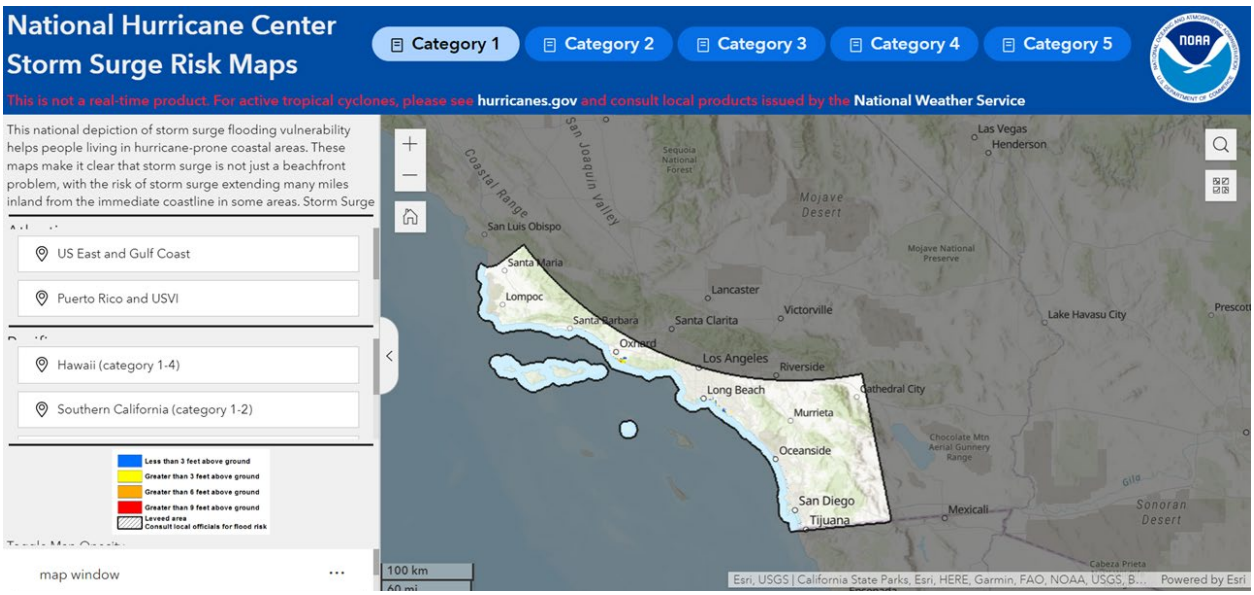
monitoring is insufficient for locating and sizing wells for the most reliable supply of consistent influent for the Project.

- ❖ Doheny State Beach

Beach Wells, pump station(s), and influent supply pipelines would impact users and beneficial uses of the Doheny State Park and its adjacent marine waters and would be subject to coastal sand/beach movements as have occurred since before 1994. Satellite images of the Park beaches and San Juan Creek discharge show highly variable beachfronts and configurations which have not been adequately discussed and documented through the many CEQA and related documents, nor assessed as to their impacts on users and beneficial uses of the Park and adjacent waters. The dynamic character of the beach and adjacent creek mouth and barrier bars requires a more responsive Project-beach-monitoring/response-program for maintaining flows, pressures, and qualities to the intake slant wells most often beneath the beach sands, which could be exposed or rendered isolated.

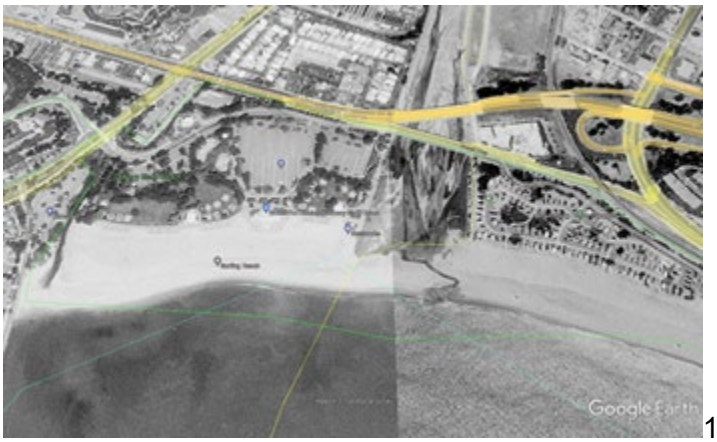
Major coastal hazards for this Project include changing beach/barrier bar sand movements, sea level rise, climatic flooding, tsunamis, liquefaction, red tides and earthquakes/seismic tremors. Such hazards require additional monitoring programs and well-organized responses to important events and rare events. Current submittals mention but do not assess physical impacts on water-related resources and their dependent users. Given the water dependent nature of the beach wells and potentials for liquefactions and tsunami disturbances, the design, monitoring, and recovery measures must be much more specific and subject to monitoring systems and recovery practices, standby equipment, and periodic drills to assure minimum impacts on resources and users of the coastal zone.

The California coastline from as far north as Santa Maria and south to San Diego, including Doheny Beach, appear on the [National Hurricane Center Storm Surge Risk Maps](#) for the Pacific Coast.



As evidenced by the recent Google Earth Satellite images below, Doheny Beach State Park and its shoreline is subject to expected and significant changes due to Creek flows, ocean currents, and wind-wave erosion and deposition all of which can change the shoreline adjacent to any beach front well field for influent to the Project. The applicant has not assessed the environmental effects of such physical changes to the well field and "aquifer" providing the influent to the Project. Similarly, the Creek and "estuary" formed by the Creek is often subjected to eutrophication and algal blooms which may influence the chemical conditions of the Project influent and maybe influenced by the current STP effluent discharges.

A thorough description of the well field and its sphere of influence and interactions with the Creek and Northwesterly drains from streets, highways, and parking lots must be provided along with a suitable groundwater model for conditions during expected flows, runoffs, and climate conditions, along with those expected during the life of the Project (2072).



1994

2005

2011


2019 (900ft)

8-21

Seismicity

The entire California Coast is subject to many earthquakes along the numerous faults on- and off-shore, including the Project site and any future Project and facilities. No earthquake preparedness plan, equipment, supplies, and facilities have been presented which would adequately and completely address the conditions during and following a “design earthquake” of say 7.0RM, at depths of <10,000ft and within 5 miles of the Project site. Furthermore, no discussion of past earthquakes, including the 3.6RM temblor that struck about 03:41am July 17, 2022 off coast from Dana Point, expected to have been along the active Palos Verdes fault. Although no damages/injuries were reported, no assessment was undertaken or documented as to possible associated changing in the Park nor along the Creek, and no facilities or staffing were available to assess any preceding/following changing or seismic activities.

As part of a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan of the final EIR for the Project (not included to date) and submittals to the CCC (not included as yet), the Applicant must provide an adequate and complete seismic review and potentials for shaking, liquefaction, detachment, floating, and breakage must be assessed and recovery provided. As a minimum, a seismicity monitoring facility must be located at the existing sewage treatment plant for locating and documenting seismic effects at this facility and for future Project facilities including influent/effluent piping networks and for initiating thorough inspections and recovery activities after a seismic event and their relationships to the direction, frequency, and duration of smaller events, before the Big One.

As indicated by available staff comments regarding the application and supporting documents clearly demonstrates that the CEQA process for the Project provided an inadequate and incomplete assessment and review of the Project. The CCC now has the opportunity and obligation to provide adequate and complete Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan for the Project. However, such conclusion must be based on an adequate and complete document responding to staff report's request for many additional mitigations and compensations and that are formally submitted as elements of the application and with full public review before decisions regarding the Project.

The applicants' submission is totally inadequate and incomplete for CEQA compliance by the CCC for this Project and requires major revisions and elaborations before the CCC should make a decision for CEQA compliance.

FEIR

No Mitigation/Monitoring/Reporting Plan and designation of responsibilities

Final CEQA documents for the proposed Project do not include the required "Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan", specifically assigning mitigation, monitoring of mitigation/environmental effects/reporting of impacts and mitigation to the served communities. Without specific contractual documentation, the applicant is assumed to make a good faith, FEASIBLE effort to do the mitigation and revise such if mitigation measures fail to achieve significant reduction of environmental impacts, to less-than-significant impacts.

POPULATION GROWTH AND NEED

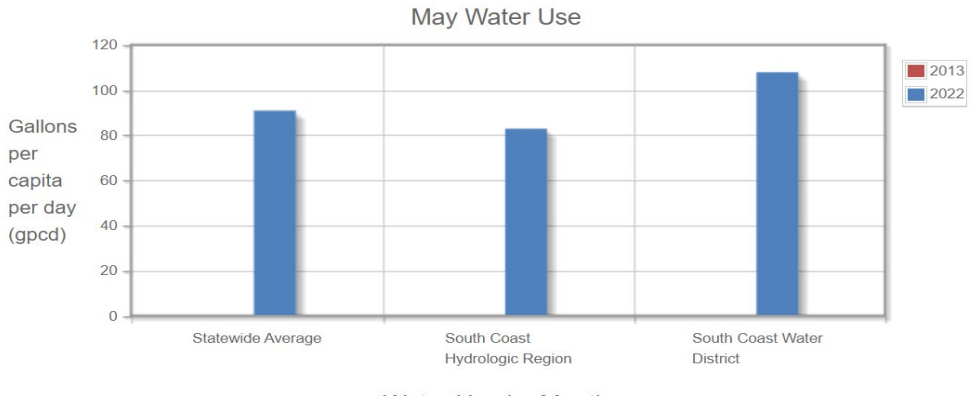
SCWD is nowhere close to meeting statewide goals for urban water use. As per SCWD 2020 Urban Water Management Plan finalized 6-29-2021, district consumption is 142 GPCD. On the website under Rates, low water use is determined by the use of 1 unit. 1 Unit equates to 748 gallons of water per month. A single-family unit of 2-3 residents uses 10 units per month - 74,860 gallons a month.
A family unit of 4, considered high water use by SCWD uses 20 units - 149,720 gallons per month. This is only residential use.

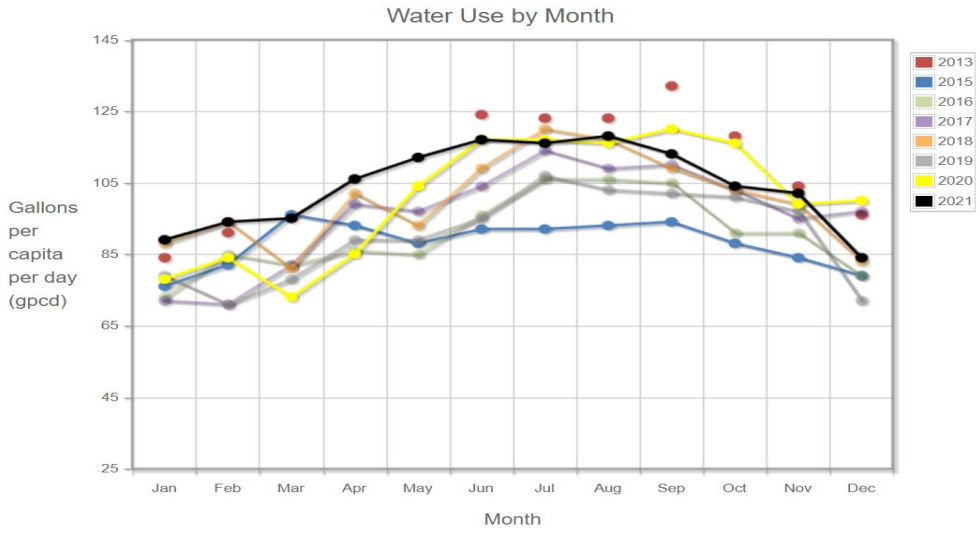
The average Californian used approximately 83 GPD in April 2022, however use in SCWD's region was at 153 GPCD in May 2022 up from April 2022 at 141 GPCD. Residential use 108 GPCD (May 2022) and 101 GPCD (April 2022) respectively.

South Coast Water District

Population: 34,635

System-Wide | **Residential**





California Urban Water Use Data

Hydrologic Region: Select All Month: May 2022

Show 100 entries Search: south coast

Water Supplier Name	Population Served	Systemwide Per-Capita Water Use in May 2022 (gpcd)	Residential Per-Capita Water Use in May 2022 (gpcd)	Conservation Standard	Water Saved Since June 2015	Met Conservation Target?	Charts	Map
South Coast Water District	34,635	153	108	0%	0%	n/a	Chart	Map

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 376 total entries) Previous 1 Next

*The Water Board does not report residential GPCD in 2013 for months of March to May.

*Water use expressed in gallons per capita per day, or **gpcd**.

California Urban Water Use Data

Hydrologic Region: Select All Month: April 2022

Show 100 entries Search: south coast

Water Supplier Name	Population Served	Systemwide Per-Capita Water Use in April 2022 (gpcd)	Residential Per-Capita Water Use in April 2022 (gpcd)	Conservation Standard	Water Saved Since June 2015	Met Conservation Target?	Charts	Map
South Coast Water District	34,635	141	101	0%	0%	n/a	Chart	Map

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 392 total entries) Previous 1 Next

*The Water Board does not report residential GPCD in 2013 for months of March to May.

*Water use expressed in gallons per capita per day, or **gpcd**.

Though SCWD has stressed that the conservation has gone up 130%, there is much more to be done through stormwater capture and increased capacity of their recycling water facilities.

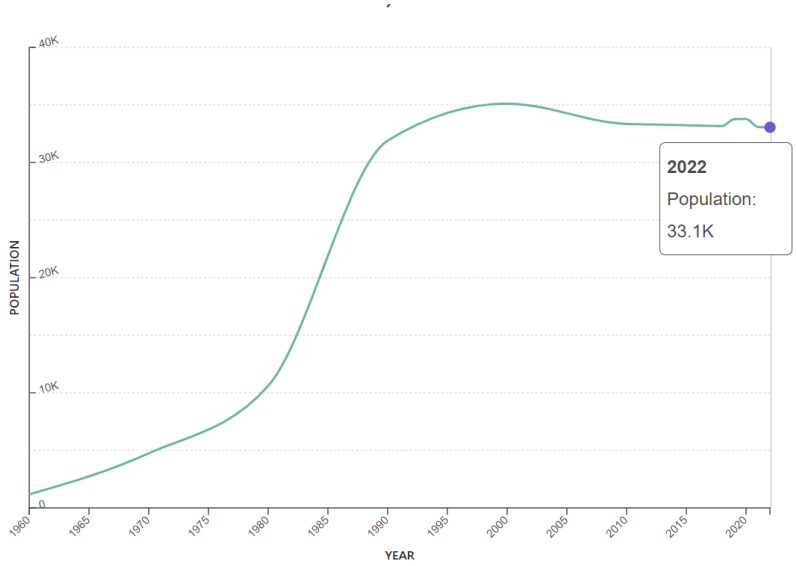
- ❖ Water use projections in SCWD's UWMP

"WATER USE PROJECTIONS: 5-YEAR AND 25-YEAR - The District's service area is almost completely built-out and is projected to add minimum land use and small population increase. Potable water demand is likely to increase 1.9% over the next 5 years. In the longer term, potable water demand is projected to increase 4.4% from 2025 through 2045. The projected water use for 2045 is 5,720 AF for potable water and 1,350 AF for recycled water. This demand projection considers such factors as current and future demographics, future water use efficiency measures, and long-term weather variability."

Yet **there is contradictory information** under the subtitle:
“WATER USE CHARACTERIZATION” - Water use within the district’s service area has been relatively stable in the past decade with an annual average of 6,564 AF and a slight downward trend in the second half of the past decade. The potable and non-potable water use accounts for an average of 88% and 12% of total District water use, respectively. In FY 2019-20, the district’s water use was 5,376 AF of potable water (groundwater and imported).”

It is typical for agencies to over-forecast water use. One wonders, if there is such a dire need for more water, why approve construction of a “lazy river” at the Waldorf Astoria? The “lazy river” Is a 543-foot-long curving loop of water that is 4-feet deep and 12-feet wide at a minimum. The Waldorf Astoria has said all the water will be treated, filtered and reused, plus we are looking at the use of potable water at an evaporation rate of ¼ inch per day depending on weather conditions.

Dana Point, California Population 2022
33,059



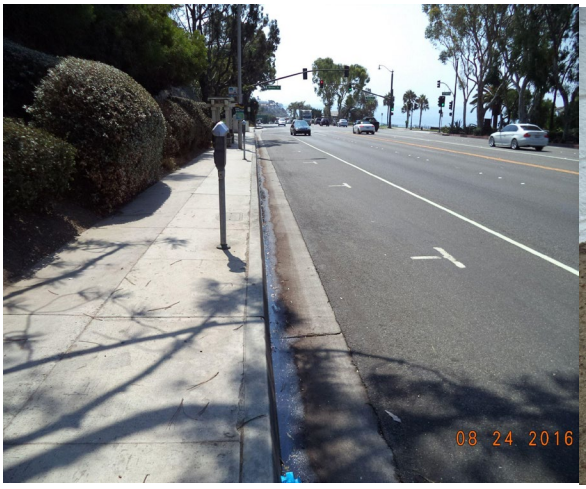
The trend throughout California has shown less water use with an increase in population, however population has decreased in Dana Point by recent US census estimates. Dana Point is currently declining at a rate of -0.07% annually and its population has decreased by -2.14% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of **33,782** in 2020. The mathematics don’t add up for the dire need of this project.

SMARTEST ALTERNATIVES

- ★ Stormwater Capture and Runoff

Water waste and water run off continue to be an ongoing issue within the SCWD service areas. Every day in the district that South Coast Water District services (Dana Point, South Laguna, and areas of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano), there are millions of gallons of potable

water flowing down the gutters into storm drains or creating puddles at intersections. Little is done to truly educate customers on water conservation. Certainly, there could be more information on their website. Here are but a few examples over the years, residents have documented.



2022

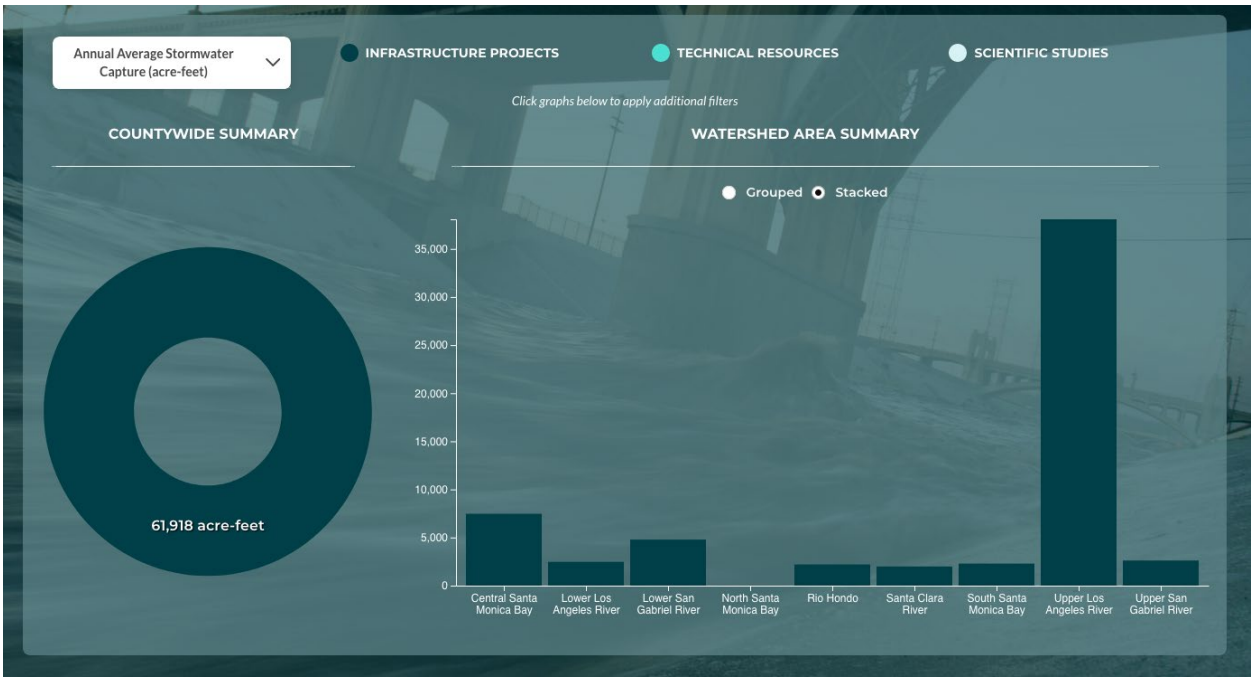


10/2022

These are everyday occurrences

On June 4th, 2013 the City of Dana Point approved an amendment to Measure M2 for inclusion of the Golden Lantern Parkway Water Quality Mitigation Project. This project application was for landscape rehabilitation in the parkway and medians along Golden Lantern to help avoid reclaimed water runoff onto the street and into the storm drains. However, if the City of Dana Point and Orange County actually passed a measure like LA's Measure W's Safe, Clean Water Program and LA Sanitation's Green Streets Program there would be significant savings of water runoff being put to beneficial use lessening reliance on imported water.

Watershed Area	Area Managed by Projects (acres)	24-hr Capacity (acre-feet)	Annual Average Stormwater Capture (acre-feet)
Central Santa Monica Bay	77,930	129	7,395
Lower Los Angeles River	23,422	173	1,999
Lower San Gabriel River	31,269	277	4,260
North Santa Monica Bay	121	5	5
Rio Hondo	55,811	48	2,168
Santa Clara River	1,459	32	340
South Santa Monica Bay	10,396	284	1,811
Upper Los Angeles River	15,916	2,829	36,326
Upper San Gabriel River	5,836	293	2,612
Grand Total	**222,161**	**4,070**	**56,915**



As per SCWD UWMP Section 6.5 Stormwater:
6.5.1 Existing Sources There are, **currently, no direct stormwater uses** in the District's Service area.
6.5.2 Planned Future Sources As of 2021, **there are no planned stormwater uses** in the District's service area.

★ WATER RECYCLING

Recycled water shows tremendous future potential for extending and expanding water use throughout the district. Yet the district has not focused on its value, instead choosing to throw millions of dollars into a desalination plant that will cost water users more, threaten the energy grid and cause environmental harm.

The 2020 UWMP's Section 6.2.4 Planned Future Sources outlines "investing in efforts to meet its goal of long-term regional water supply reliability." However, recycled water is listed fifth. By prioritizing recycled water, and bringing it to the top of that list, the saving and using of vital water resources will be put into proper perspective.

Consider how the following "revised" list negates the need for a desalination plant:

- Increase water recycling
- Continuing water conservation
- Developing water supply management programs outside of the region
- Developing storage programs related to the Colorado River and the SWP
- Developing storage and groundwater management programs within the Southern California region

- Increasing water recycling, groundwater recovery, stormwater, and seawater desalination.
- Pursuing long-term solutions for the ecosystem, regulatory and water supply issues

Recycled water is water we already have and are REUSING. Please remember the 3 Rs: Reuse, Repurpose, RECYCLE. Expansion of recycled water, by building facilities and laying more pipe, can easily replace the pure drinking water currently in our toilet bowls. This potential is mentioned in the 2020 UWMP's Section 6.6.5 Potential Recycled Water Uses: "Conversion customers are those that currently use potable water for demands that can also be met with recycled water such as landscape irrigation."

Every customer is a conversion customer. In fact, the 2020 UMWP acknowledges this: "Demands for recycled water will continue to increase as the district continues to invest in recycled water infrastructure and supply improvements. Figure 6-5 displays potential conversion customers in the SCWD area along the existing recycled water infrastructure that typically use over 1 AFY".

Table 6-5: Wastewater Collected Within Service Area in 2020 (AF)

DWR Submittal Table 6-2 Retail: Wastewater Collected Within Service Area in 2020						
☐	There is no wastewater collection system. The supplier will not complete the table below.					
	Percentage of 2020 service area covered by wastewater collection system					
	Percentage of 2020 service area population covered by wastewater collection system					
Wastewater Collection			**Recipient of Collected Wastewater**			
Name of Wastewater Collection Agency	Wastewater Volume Metered or Estimated?	Volume of Wastewater Collected from UWMP Service Area 2020	Name of Wastewater Treatment Agency Receiving Collected Wastewater	Treatment Plant Name	Is WWTP Located Within UWMP Area?	Is WWTP Operation Contracted to a Third Party?
SCWD	Metered	3,035	SOCWA	JB Latham Plant/CTP	Yes	No
Total Wastewater Collected from Service Area in 2020:		3,035				
NOTES: Source: SOCWA Wastewater Meter Records						

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SCWD	Metered	3,035	SOCWA	JB Latham Plant/CTP	Yes	No
Total Wastewater Collected from Service Area in 2020:		3,035				
NOTES: Source: SOCWA Wastewater Meter Records						

The 2020 UWMP's Section 6.6.6 Optimization Plan points to encouraging recycled water use by:

- require dual piping in new developments
- retrofit existing landscaped areas
- construct recycled water pump stations
- build and extend transmission lines (purple pipes) to reach throughout the county.

Why does the district want to go the expensive route of ocean desalination, instead of the practical, pragmatic and cost-effective choice of recycled water?

Let's look at the recent past. It appears the District chose NOT to focus on PROMOTION of the use of recycled water (shown in Table 6-6 Retail : 2015 UWMP Recycled water Use Projection Compared to 2020 Account) because the 2020 "actual" is lower than the projection made five years earlier, in 2015.

Table 6-6: Wastewater Treatment and Discharge within Service Area in 2020 (AF)

DWR Submittal Table 6-3 Retail: Wastewater Treatment and Discharge Within Service Area in 2020											
☐	No wastewater is treated or disposed of within the UWMP service area. The Supplier will not complete the table below.										
Wastewater Treatment Plant Name	Discharge Location Name or Identifier	Discharge Location Description	Wastewater Discharge ID Number	Method of Disposal	Does This Plant Treat Wastewater Generated Outside the Service Area?	Treatment Level	2020 volumes				
							Wastewater Treated	Discharged Treated Wastewater	Recycled Within Service Area	Recycled Outside of Service Area	Instream Flow Permit Requirement
JB Lantham	San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall	Dana Point		Ocean outfall	Yes	Secondary, Disinfected - 2.2	3,035	2,190	845	0	0
CTP	Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall	Laguna Beach									
						Total	3,035	2,190	845	0	0
NOTES: Assumed 84% of wastewater treated at facilities (SCWD Sewer Master Plan)											

- ➢ Recycled water use on “Only landscape irrigation (excludes golf courses)” shows projected use in 2015 as 755, but the 2020 actual is 557. A shortfall of nearly 200.
- ➢ Recycled water for “Golf course irrigation” is projected in 2015 as 390, with the 2020 actual at 286. Another shortfall of 104.
- ➢ Recycled water in “industrial use” is projected in 2015 as 4, with the 2020 actual being 2. Only half of the projection was achieved.

The district needs to seriously focus on recycled water infrastructure as identified in the Capital Improvement Program from the 2017 Infrastructure Master Plan:

“Example projects include the construction of new recycled water piping in Stonehill Drive between Monarch Beach Drive and Intera Way, installing new pressure reducing valves, and various other pipeline and infrastructure improvements determined necessary to provide adequate pressure and flow throughout the recycled water distribution system.”

“The District has applied for funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program for the Monarch Beach Drive/Stonehill Recycled Water Distribution Project. San Juan Watershed Project – SMWD “

These are capital improvements. Replace the decaying infrastructure with recycled water infrastructure. Spend the money repairing and replacing, NOT on a costly ocean desalination facility.

Finally, let’s look at the district’s “Recycled Water Activities and Accomplishments”. A positive note that PROVES increased emphasis on recycled water will prove to be a far more reliable source than ocean desalination.

“SCWD currently has 194 recycled water connections to service 87 use sites within our service area including City and County Parks, HOA Communities, two Public Golf Courses, Mission

Hospital, Commercial Properties, City Medians and Parkways that utilize recycled water for irrigation."

"We have recently extended our Recycled Water System to Dana Point Harbor."

"SCWD utilizes an ongoing MWD recycled water retrofit rebate program that financially assists our commercial customers in transitioning large potable irrigation systems to recycled water."

"Over the past 5 years we have converted an additional 30 potable water use sites to recycled water for an additional potable water savings of 922.1 AF. District wide we have saved over 5,066 AF. of potable water since 2015."

"Currently we have identified an additional 20 recycled water conversion sites that are underway or in the planning phase."

"The Doheny State Park is undergoing a conversion to recycled water for irrigation and should be online by early Spring of 2021."

"One of the major components of the District's Water Conservation Program is our Recycled Water Retrofit Program."

Given that the CA State Water Board will finalize DPR legislation by next year 2023, the prudent thing would be for SCWD to wait for this approval and plan ahead for the implementation of direct potable reuse, without harm to the marine estuary, marine life, waterways and the beach.

- ★ Conservation

SCWD can best meet its crucial water supply and demand management goals with a portfolio of highly efficient strategies that are tailored to local conditions. At best this agency has failed to adequately address water conservation. We are well aware that those that can afford, usually are those who continue to not conserve. There are pockets of low-income families within SCWD's service area, who will bear the brunt of the cost of desalted water. Reductions in household water use provide an immediate reduction in water bills, energy consumption and energy bills.

Having rebates for energy efficient appliances, greywater systems, rain gardens, turf removal, water barrels should be mandatory and should be additional to the offerings from Metropolitan Water District and MWDOC. Classes should be offered on drought tolerant landscapes, grasses, bioswales, if SCWD is to be taken seriously when it comes to education on

conservation. Outdoor water use takes up 70% of our water and accounts for run-off as featured

 10/22

A new Pacific Institute white paper, “Advancing Affordability through Water Efficiency,” finds water conservation and efficiency improvements improve water affordability for both conserving households and the larger community. Using national data on utility rates, the study shows that reductions in household water use provide an immediate reduction in water bills and, in some instances, wastewater and energy bills for the conserving household. Because water efficiency is typically less expensive than developing new supplies, case studies from the western United States show that water efficiency also helps utilities avoid the need to build expensive new water and wastewater infrastructure, resulting in lower utility bills and connection fees for the broader community over the long term.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The proposed Project also raises environmental justice issues for the CCC. “Who pays and Who benefits from the Project operations?”
Currently all costs for the proposed Project would be assessed to all SCWD connections, while the advanced treatment beneficiaries would be those residents with connections below 200ft elevation and within a mile of the Desal Project facilities. The applicant has not prepared service pressure zone maps showing the service of the proposed Project or these and other alternatives. No mention is made as to any additional assessment for those most likely receiving the benefits of improved supply pressures and volumes. The applicant has not provided maps of service areas and populations and comparative tables for ethic/racial/education/economic status of the service area residents.
Given the typical rate adjustments, most served residents will generally pay the same prices per gallon for their water supplies, however issues arise when the sources and delivered pressures and quality of waters may vary. Concerns arise when all service residents may be subject to higher costs per volume of service, while not benefitting from better service – higher pressures and higher quality supplies near the coast and below 200ft elevation.

- Rates

As per the PPIC report Desalination, With A Grain of Salt - A California Perspective: “Discussion of actual costs has been muddled and muddied. Experience to date suggests that desalinated water cannot be delivered to users in California for anything less than the cost of production, which our research indicates is unlikely to fall below the range of $3.00 to $3.50 per thousand gallons ($/kgal) (roughly $0.79 to $0.92 per cubic meter)) for even large, efficient plants. Because the cost of production can be as high as $8.35/kgal ($2.21/m3) (MPWMD 2005b), the cost of delivered water could be in the range of $9 to $10/kgal ($2.37 to $2.64/m3). Even the low end of this range remains above the price of water typically paid by urban water users… Even urban users rarely pay more than $1.00 to $3.00/kgal ($0.26 to $0.79/m3).”
“Hidden and visible subsidies affect the reported and actual costs. Since water customers in Southern California ultimately pay for the subsidy, the subsidized cost is potentially misleading.”

Energy is the largest single variable cost for a desalination plant, varying from one-third to more than one-half the cost of produced water (Chaudhry 2003).

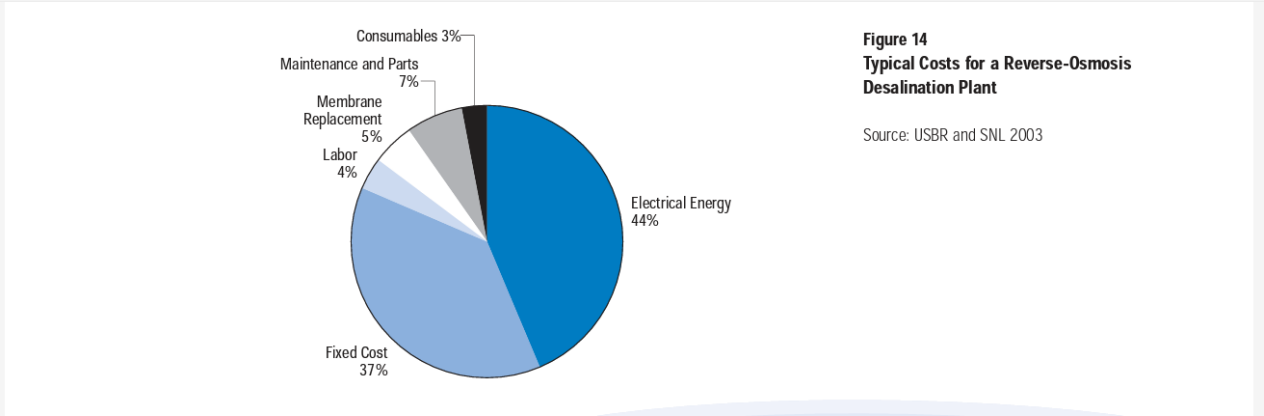
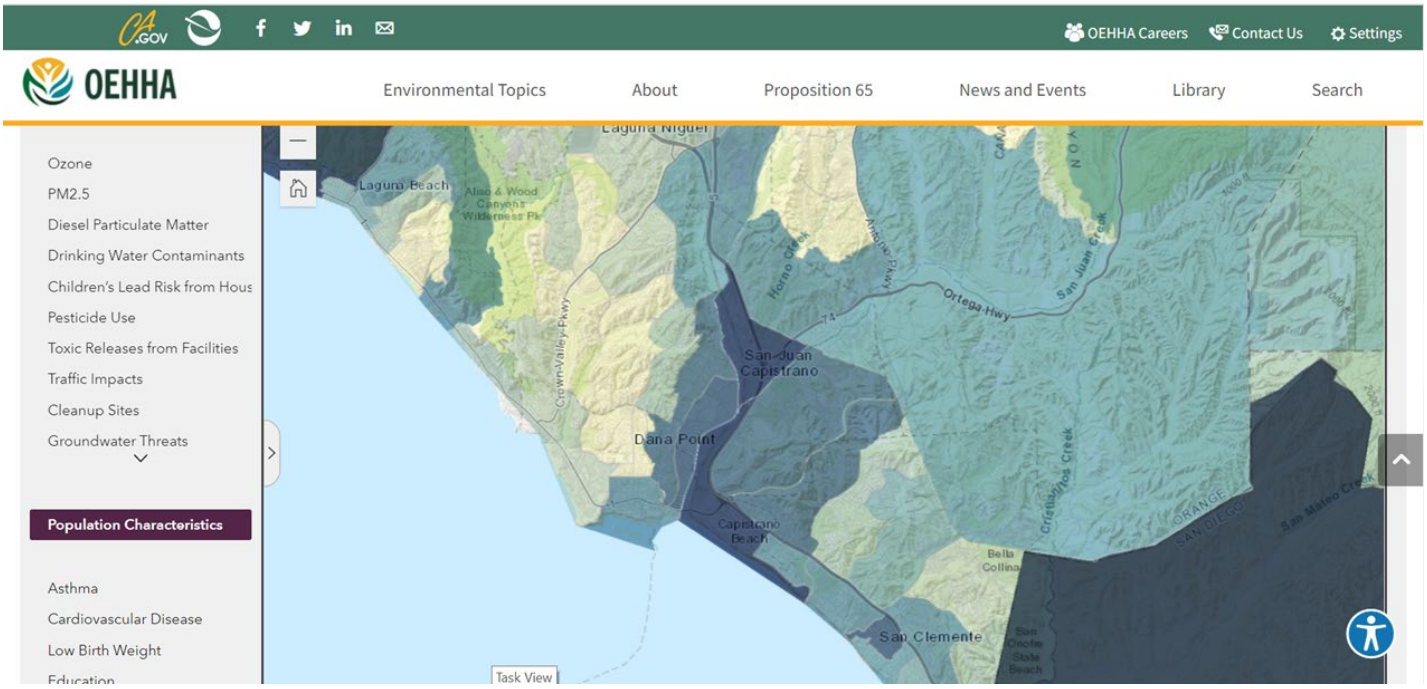


Image courtesy of PPIC

- Water Quality

The proposed Doheny Desalination Plant does not consider cumulative pollution impacts to environmental justice communities located in census tracts identified in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 OEHHA maps.



Local EJ Communities not included in SB 535 maps but are a part of census tracts included in CaEnviroScreen 4.0 OEHHA map above (DARK BLUE hourglass shape at center of map).

For example:

Census Tract 6059042312 includes the Los Rios Street Historic District and surrounding neighborhoods, and portions of the City of San Juan Capistrano. Pollution burden results for this census tract are:

1.Upper area

Los Rios Street Historic District - east bank of Trabuco Creek near 74 interchange.
San Juan Capistrano - lower half, east back of Trabuco Creek

Census Tract below
Pollution Burden Results

Census Tract 6059042312

Pollution Burden:	89
Population:	9752
CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile:	72
Ozone:	65
PM 2.5:	47

Diesel PM:	92
Pesticides:	29
Toxic Releases:	34
Traffic:	98
Drinking Water Contaminants:	50
Lead in Housing:	66
Cleanups:	44
Groundwater Threats:	11
Hazardous Waste:	81
Impaired Water:	72
Solid Waste:	73

2.Lower area

Doheny Village - San Juan Creek east bank, mouth of river to ocean
Beechwood Village - San Juan Creek east bank, near mouth and 5 interchange
Beechwood Village - San Juan Creek east bank, near mouth and 5 interchange
Capistrano Beach - same as above (approximate location)
Capo Beach - Below Beechwood Village (approximate location)

Census tract below:
Pollution Burden Results

Census Tract 6059042201

Pollution Burden:	86
Population:	5207
CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile:	38
Ozone:	63
PM 2.5:	49
Diesel PM:	82
Pesticides:	17
Toxic Releases:	28
Traffic:	93
Drinking Water Contaminants:	49
Lead in Housing:	29
Cleanups:	65
Groundwater Threats:	24
Hazardous Waste:	62

Impaired Water:	98
Solid Waste:	92

Census tracts on the western banks of Trabuco Creek and San Juan Creek are also score high for pollution burdens. Please note how the pollution burden for impaired water increases the closer a community is located to the mouth of San Juan Creek where it enters the Pacific Ocean. This raises a serious question about the current quality of fresh water entering the ocean water near the proposed location of the intake pipes for the desalination plant.

There has been a long-running problem with beach water quality at Doheny State Beach in Dana Point. Two independent reports document fecal bacteria contamination as source of contamination: **Water Research** Volume 46, Issue 7, 1 May 2012, Pages 2176-2186 and ASM Journals Applied and Environmental Microbiology Vol. 78, No. 18 Association of Fecal Indicator Bacteria with Human Viruses and Microbial Source Tracking Markers at Coastal Beaches Impacted by Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Water Taxation without Representation

Public Water Agencies tax property owners in addition to establishing water rates. The South Coast Water Agency (SCWA) is proposing this ocean desalination plant while the people of South Laguna pay their property taxes to SCWA, and, by contract, are ratepayers, but they have no vote or representation. As per the Laguna Beach Indy article, dated 03/31/2022: "In January 2020, SCWD received a demand letter from Newport Beach attorney Philip Greer who claims to represent a number of SCWD ratepayers concerned that at-large elections stymie candidates who represent the district's racial and socioeconomic diversity. District leaders immediately signaled their acquiescence to avoid a costly lawsuit claiming violations of the California Voting Right Act."

The article further states: "Despite the emphasis on enfranchising voters, South Laguna remains a contracted service area and lies outside the new SCWD voting boundaries. General Manager Rick Shintaku said his agency was on a tight deadline from the Orange County Registrar of Voters to get the election on the ballot and is still trying to avoid a voting rights lawsuit." "Conversations between city and water officials are ongoing but haven't afforded the votes to South Laguna ratepayers. South Lagunans were saddened but not surprised by the water board's decision to draw them out of the voting map, said Greg O'Loughlin, president of the South Laguna Civic Association. A number of councilmembers have already told the Association that South Laguna ratepayers should have the right to vote for a water board director. It's unclear why the matter hasn't reached the council's agenda."

- Insufficient Stakeholder Consultation

While there has been some tribal consultation, it has been incomprehensible and incomplete. Other Native Nations along the discharge waterways have not been consulted. There has been no attempt to reach the communities in the local vicinity in any other language but English and no community engagement. The community hasn't even been notified of this hearing, so they may participate. As of October 1st, only one media article on this project and hearing in Patch – Laguna Beach entitled: **DoHo Desalination: Did South Coast Water District Bury The Bad**

News? SCWD Intentionally "Hid The Ball" By Failing To Notify The Public Regarding Their Coastal Commission Hearing in San Diego on 10/13/2022
“That’s because as of today, October 1st, there have been no media announcements regarding this final hurdle for the DODP: No Public Service Announcements, no Press Releases. Nada Zilch. Bupkis. Nary a peep.”

In searching, we found the above article, just one.

The Commission must request a thorough assessment of costs, services, and quality for those service areas to benefit from the coastal Desal plant supplies and those that don’t benefit from the Desal service.

CONCLUSION

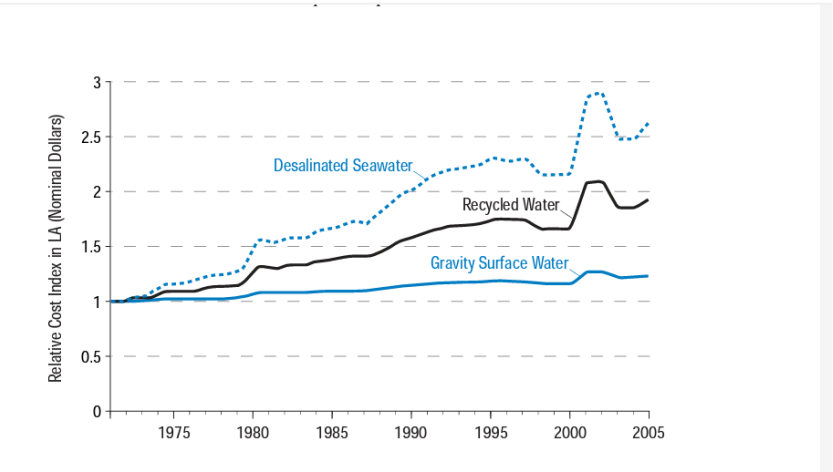
South Coast Water District repeatedly advises in their presentations and board meetings that they have made substantial investments in conservation, recycled water, and groundwater recovery. However, they currently rely on 85 to 100 percent of their water supply from imported sources. Numerous studies conclude that as much as 50% of water demand can be met with local recycled water which would decrease the reliance on imported sources. Water recycling combined with conservation and stormwater capture would more than meet the needs of such a small area. By their own records via their UWMP they have no plans to invest in stormwater capture and runoff, which could significantly lessen their reliance on imported water and add to their water portfolio.

MWDOC partners with local agencies in recycled water efforts, including OCWD to identify opportunities for the use of recycled water for irrigation purposes, groundwater recharge and some non-irrigation applications. MWD and LADWP are well on their way to capitalize on the State Water Board’s decision to move forward on DPR.

"The State Water Board staff has prepared the Framework to satisfy the recommendation in Assembly Bill (AB) 574 (Chapter 528, Statutes of 2017) to establish a framework for the regulation of potable reuse projects. In preparing the Framework, the State Water Board included the following elements stated in the California Water Code section 13560.5:
The consideration of recommendations provided in the State Water Board’s “Investigation on the Feasibility of Developing Uniform Water Recycling Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse.”
A schedule for completing the recommended research described in “Investigation on the Feasibility of Developing Uniform Water Recycling Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse.”
A regulatory framework for potable reuse projects that will be protective of public health.
A process and timeline for updating uniform water recycling criteria for potable reuse through reservoir water augmentation."

We want to acknowledge that though SCWD plans to use subsurface intakes according to the Ocean Plan, there are many issues with ocean desalination that require mitigation and why this

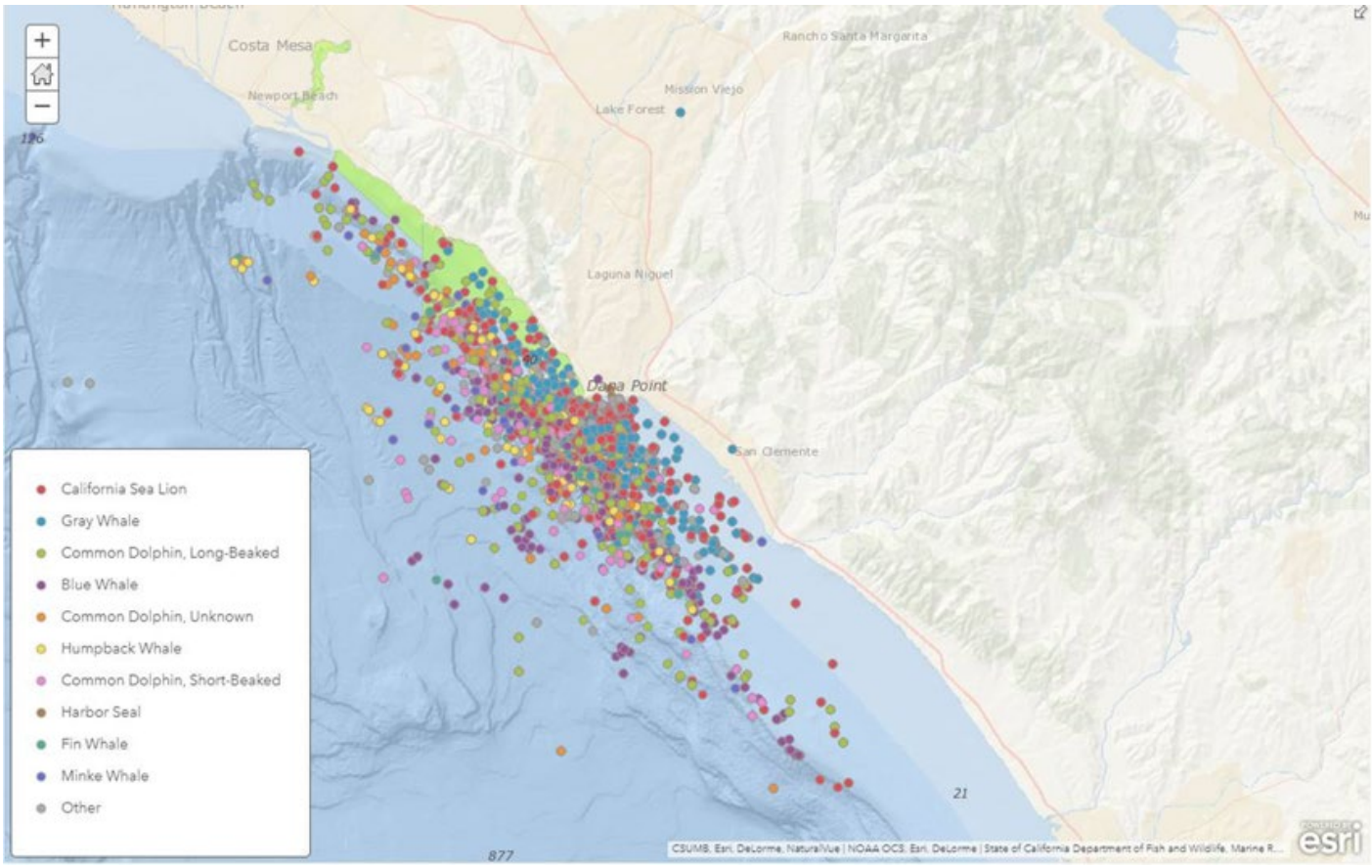
project should not be approved and/or delayed until after the State Water Board has finalized DPR regulations. DPR regulations will be a significant game changer financially as well as environmentally for water agencies, districts and the rate payer.



Relative Cost of Potable Water from a Typical Ocean Desalination, Wastewater Recycling, and Gravity Surface Water Source in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. (PPIC)

As proposed, the project will increase the salinity of discharge and wastewater volumes on regulated coastal receiving waters frequented by migrating whales as well as dolphins and other marine life. Increased discharges from the San Juan Ocean Outfall (SJOO) will expand the waste field plume to degrade larger areas and represent “back-sliding” as it relates to the NPDES Permit. Will the proposed Doheny project create toxic offshore brine pools where whales migrate? These deadly brine pools exist elsewhere in our oceans.

If this project is approved, we will be contaminating the ocean in the vicinity of the intake with the sewage effluent from San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point and Laguna Beach, then SCWD will harvest said polluted water to remove not only the contaminants of that effluent including viruses and pharmaceuticals, but also the additional salts and naturally occurring chemicals, that make the ocean water undrinkable. This cetacean mapping graphic depicts the project’s relation to the brine water discharges and federally protected marine life as well as potential migration of the Doheny Project’s waste field plume into South Laguna coastal waters.



Mapping courtesy of Lei Lani Stelle, Ph.D., Professor, Chair of Department of Biology, University of Redlands

These are just a few of the challenges with this proposed project, and we can not mitigate our way from long term impacts. This project will be a 5 MGD facility, yet SCWD's 3 recycled water facilities produces 300 million gallons of recycled water per year - quite enough to meet the future needs of SCWD residents with DPR in the next few years and offset the production of the proposed facility. Capacity at the District's three recycled water reservoirs is at 4.8 million gallons, again enough to offset the proposed desalination facility.

We ask that the permitting for this project is denied or delayed until the State Board releases DPR regulations in 2023.

Sincerely,

Charming P Evelyn
Co-Chair Water Committee
Sierra Club California

Frankie Onero
Executive Director
Society of Native Nations

Conner Everts
Executive Director
Southern California Watershed Alliance
Desal Response Group

Martha Camacho-Rodriguez
Executive Director
Social Eco Education

Jack Eidt
Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Esperanza Vielma
Executive Director
The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Monday, November 21, 2022

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue
Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Doheny Ocean Desalination Project – Addendum to Smartest Alternatives to the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Society of Native Nations, Sierra Club, 350.org, Desal Response Group, Southern California Watershed Alliance, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water and Social Eco Education, we write to address the FEIR for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project proposed by South Coast Water District in South Orange County.

The Project application is inadequate and incomplete and does not comply with CEQA. We ask that you deny the application for this project.

Society of Native Nations Statement:

***Abolish the doctrines of discovery and manifest destiny, only then will nature have a fighting chance*.**

What can I say - to convince the powers that be to not support desalination?

What is next- now that Doheny Desal is approved - as is Monterey Bay Desal- is San Luis Obispo Desal next?

Much credit to the people representing the different California Water Districts and Commissioners - however none were Indigenous of this Land.

We have to ask, "What is the true and real motivating factors, and the state agenda? It hasn't seemed to be support protecting, defending and honoring our ocean, our beaches and coastal marine relatives.

Where is the local tribal consultation and consent when one tribe says yes and one other says no to Desal? How will the SLC balance democracy?

The ocean does not read ordinances or laws and policies - we humans are all responsible as our Oceans are more acidic - warmer - and the channels - gyre currents are slowing down.

CCC approves dumping and poisoning - daily; dumping directly into the ocean daily.

Smaller Desal projects - offers unseen intake -

The toxic chemical brine -swirl…

As long as your eyes do not see it

Your heart will not feel it.

Please do not continue with ocean desal projects and plans. With all due respect, what does the Coastal Act and the SLC Environmental Justice Policy mean if we continue to ignore the voices of those being treated unjustly? If approved you are condoning 'Death' by several Desal plant permits.

The CCC staff report reads: 'Approval Special Conditions' It should be relabeled: '7 generation compromise.' CCC staff report offers - 'Key Issues' and tribal consultation and consent which are listed last. We know it is not listed as top to bottom of importance…however placement is everything. It appears for appearance's sake; we are lastly considered. Is that truly centering local California Indigenous wisdom and consideration?

The accumulative impacts of ocean desalination plants have not been studied and it should be as a global community not just the Orange County, as it greatly impacts San Diego and further south. Everything Northern California to Southern territories - will suffer the impact, what is the size of dead zones before we all take notice and it is too late to turn it around?

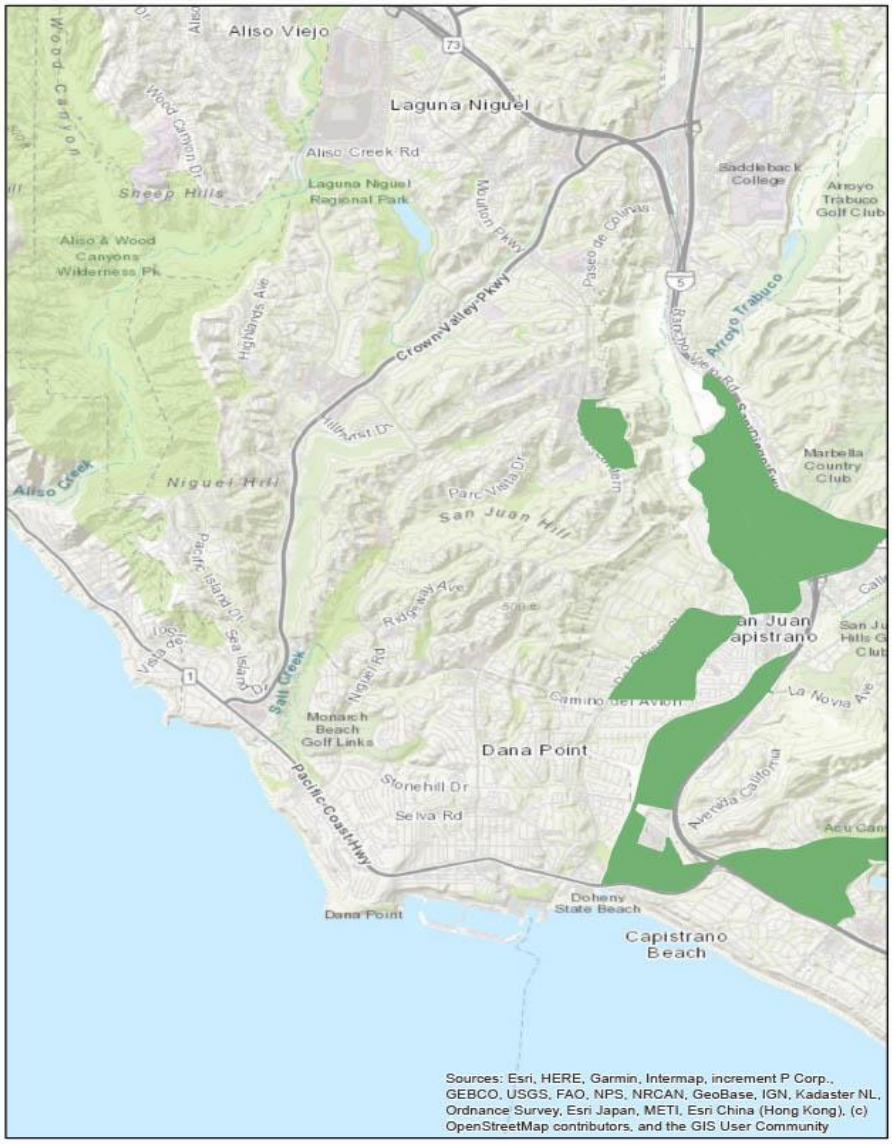
We are not fear based - we cannot operate from fear as we have not been inconvenienced and uncomfortable in our collective water conservation efforts. We still see green lawns, golf courses and polo fields with their abundance of water use.

How are we all respecting water as she is medicine for everyone? Without water, there is no life.

Society of Native Nations opposes the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project, permits, plans and future projects - as we see no future in causing further harm to our oceans.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

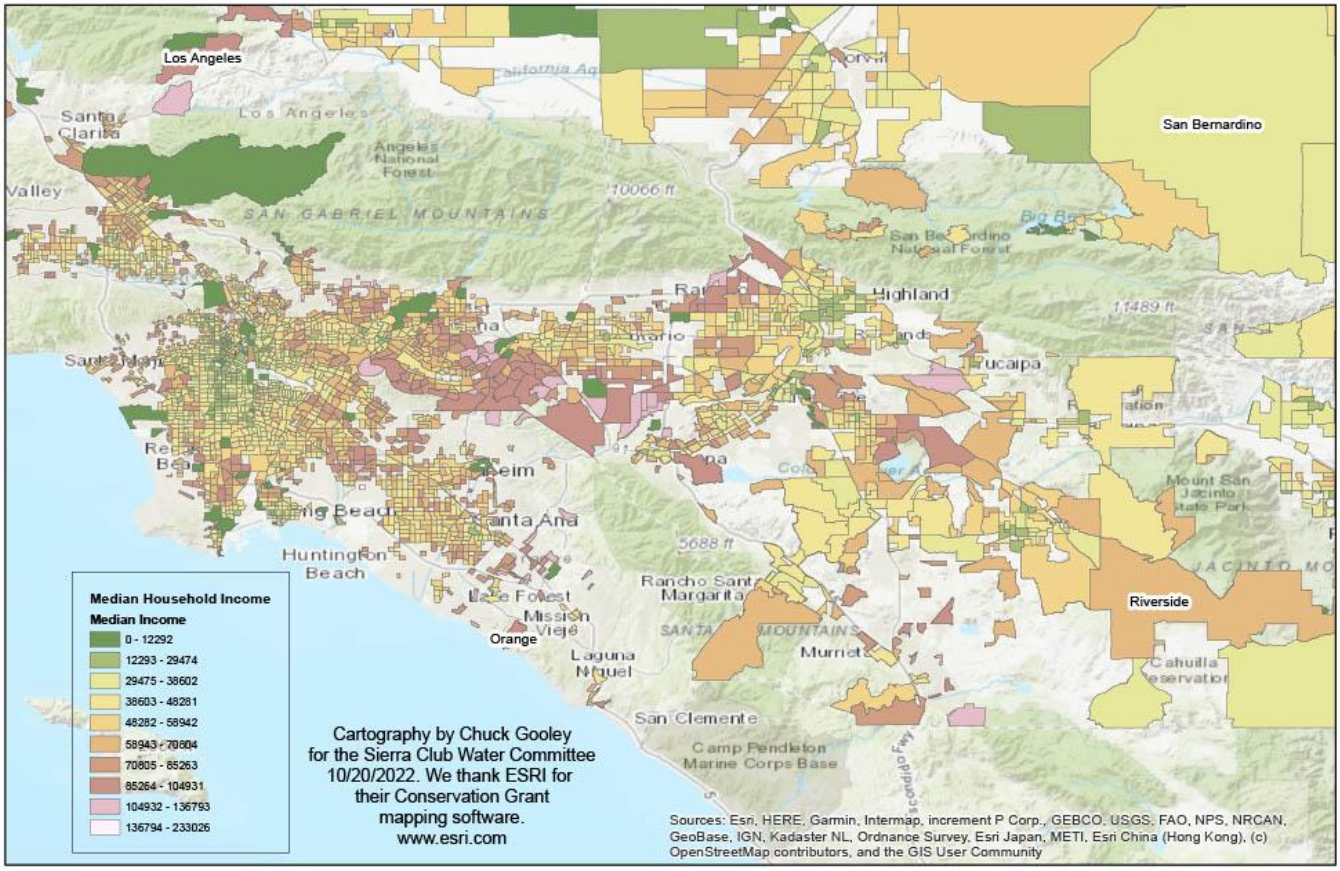
We draw the Commission's attention to the SLC EJ Policy, Goal #10: Advance Climate Equity; we ask that the Commission keep this goal in mind when evaluating the EJ aspects of this project. We would like to bring your attention to the EJ impacted areas. Though not featured as SB 535 Cal-Enviro impacted areas, there are disadvantaged and under-resourced neighborhoods within the Dana Point that will be impacted. Source: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAGGIS LA)



Environmental Justice Areas: https://gisdata-scag.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/SCAG::environmental-justice-areas--1/explore?location=33.487364%2C-117.653551%2C13.20

Environmental Justice Areas

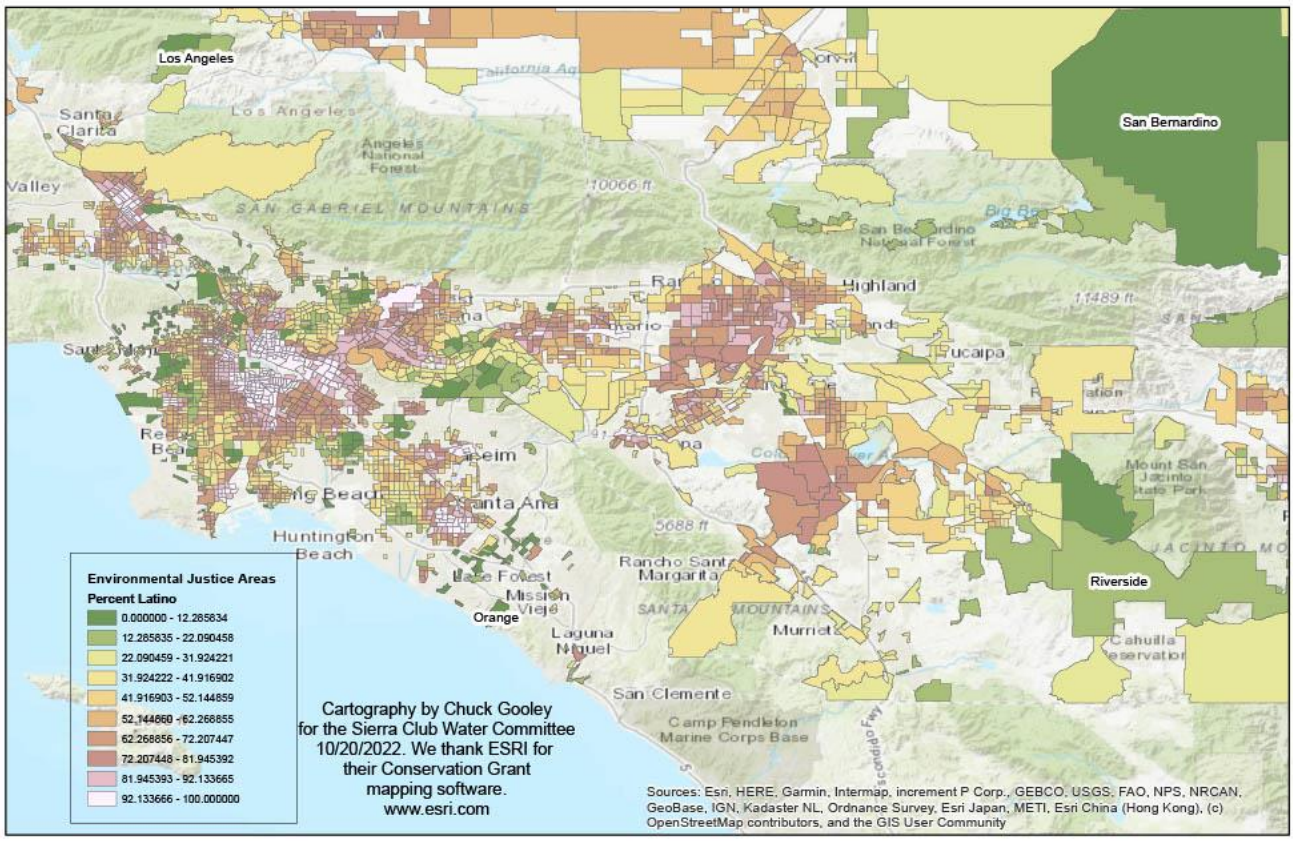
Median Household Income for Southern California Cities in Environmental Justice Areas



Median household income starts off at $29,500

Environmental Justice Areas

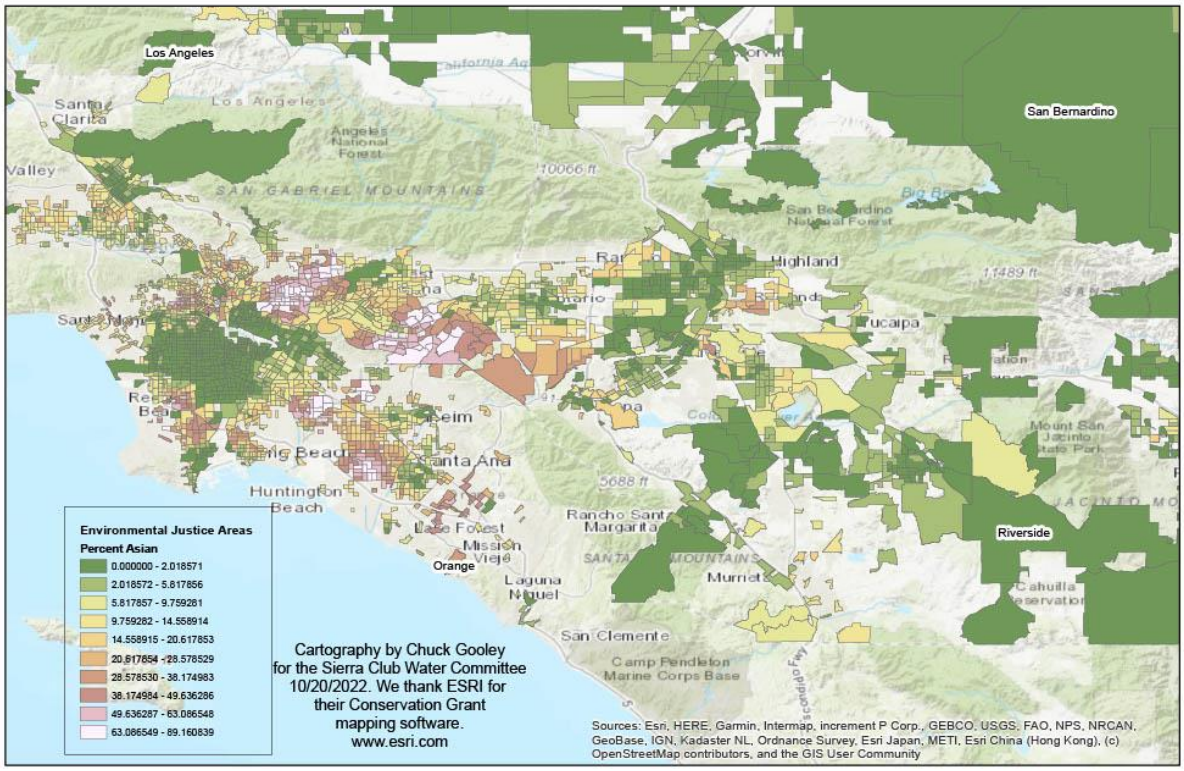
Southern California Cities in Environmental Justice Areas Percent Latino



Some areas are up to 62 – 72% Latino

Environmental Justice Areas

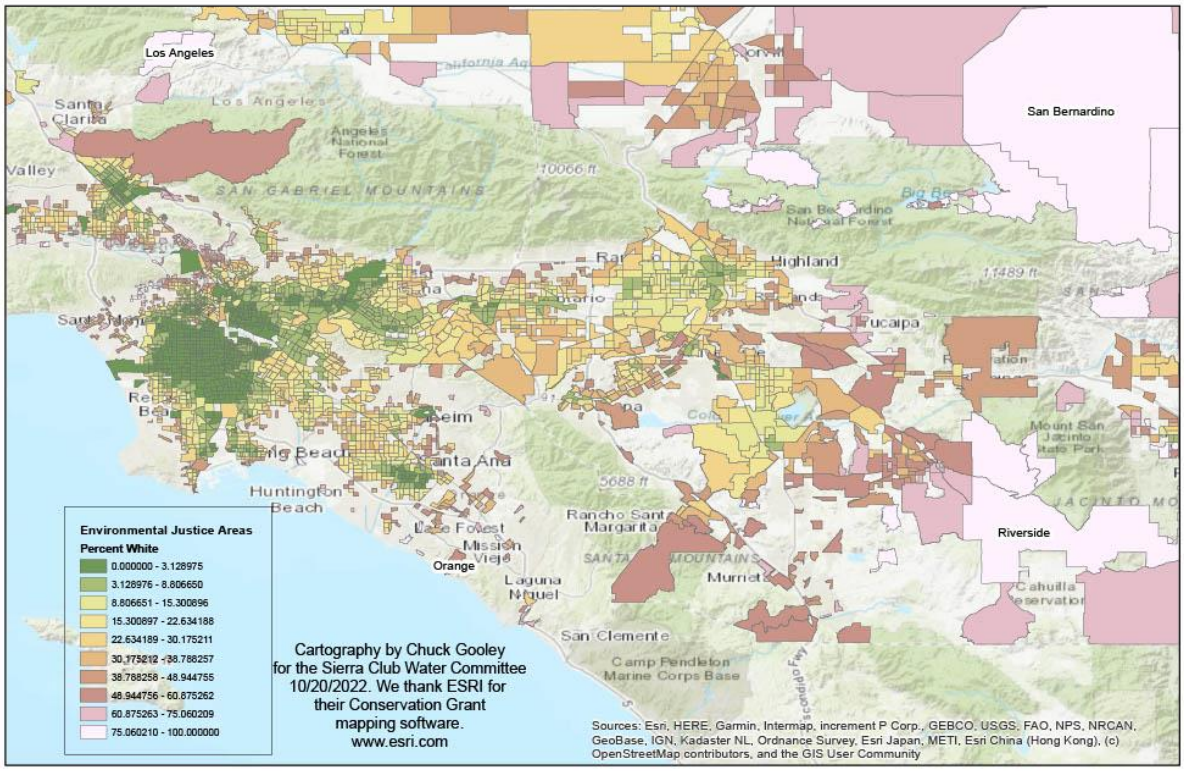
Southern California Cities in Environmental Justice Areas Percent Asian



We do appreciate the efforts by the CCC staff and thank them for including the special conditions with the recommendation of approval for the project, however, we the aforementioned firmly believe ocean desalination should be of the last resort, when all else has been exhausted because of its detrimental effects on the environment and continued harm to those amongst us who can least afford it.

Environmental Justice Areas

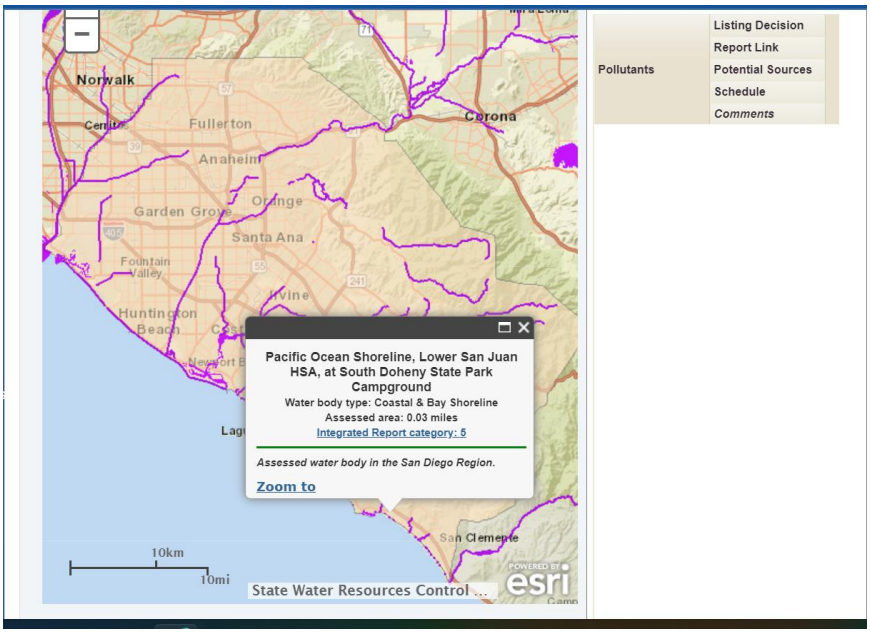
Southern California Cities in Environmental Justice Areas Percent White



Water Quality

The proposed Doheny Desalination Plant does not consider cumulative pollution impacts to environmental justice communities. The Upper area as per the census tract has an impaired water burden score of 72 and the Lower tract 98. Census tracts on the western banks of Trabuco Creek and San Juan Creek are also score high for pollution burdens. Please note how the pollution burden for impaired water increases the closer a community is located to the mouth of San Juan Creek where it enters the Pacific Ocean. This raises a serious question about the current quality of fresh water entering the ocean water near the proposed location of the intake pipes for the desalination plant.

The State Water Resources Control Board defines “Impaired Water”: Listing a water body as impaired in California is governed by the Water Quality Control Policy for developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Listing Policy. The State and Regional Water Boards assess water quality data for California's waters every two years to determine if they contain pollutants at levels that exceed protective water quality criteria and standards. This biennial assessment is required under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act.



State Water Resources Control Board

9	San Juan Creek	River & Stream	90120000 / 18070301	• DDE (Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene) ◦ Source Unknown	1 Miles	2006	5A	2019
				• Indicator Bacteria ◦ Nonpoint Source ◦ Point Source	1 Miles	1992	5A	2019
				• Phosphorus ◦ Unknown Nonpoint Source ◦ Unknown Point Source ◦ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers	1 Miles	2010	5A	2021
				• Selenium ◦ Unknown Nonpoint Source ◦ Unknown Point Source ◦ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers	1 Miles	2010	5A	2021
				• Total Nitrogen as N ◦ Unknown Nonpoint Source ◦ Unknown Point Source ◦ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers	1 Miles	2010	5A	2021
				• Toxicity ◦ Unknown Nonpoint Source ◦ Unknown Point Source ◦ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers	1 Miles	2010	5A	2021

List of contaminants – State Water Resources Control Board

Phosphorus and Nitrogen can cause algal blooms which we know are toxic to human and animal life. San Juan Creek provides critical habitat for endangered Southern California Coast Steelhead, and it empties into Doheny State Beach – a popular surfing and swimming destination and remains one of the most polluted beaches in California due to its high bacteria levels.

Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano is a 40-acre equestrian riding park that sits next to the San Juan Creek. In September 2018, the City of San Juan Capistrano, Blenheim Facility Management, LLC, and OC Coastkeeper Agree to **Settle Litigation.** The agreement represented a

collaborative effort to protect and restore fishable, swimmable and sustainable water resources for the public good. This will all be destroyed with the impacts of construction and degradation of the beach and surrounding areas.

If this project is approved, it will be contaminating the ocean in the vicinity of the intake with the sewage effluent from San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point and Laguna Beach, then SCWD will harvest said polluted water only to clean it up and re-sell to the consumer. Why not just expand the use of its recycled water facilities, so that toxic run off is captured to begin with?

A Closer Look

A simple investment that would bring shovel ready union jobs to Dana Point would be stormwater infrastructure. Combined with Orange County's Measure M/OC Go, SCWD can lesson their reliance on imported water and keep costs low for rate payers. Measure M includes funding for environmental programs that preserve, restore natural habitats and water quality. A small alley project 800 ft long and 25 ft wide, serving a drainage area of approximately 5 acres will infiltrate on an average 2 million gallons of stormwater in an average rain year, with a cost of $3.1 million dollars compare to ocean desal at $140 million. It has already been done in the City of Los Angeles.

Green streets work to develop and implement new and sustainable solutions for managing stormwater. It takes the relatively simple task of transforming the public right of way into an opportunity to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater run-off.

In Closing

SCWD has failed rate payers by not first investing in conservation, then stormwater run-off and capture. They have failed on stakeholder engagement within their communities; they have failed by not investing in a cost benefit analysis and comparison to the cost of alternatives. Their budget does not account for conservation and the UWMP lists no investments in stormwater in the future. Compared to LADWP which invests $100 million in alternatives annually, West Basin just under $10 million.

With DPR regulations on the horizon in 2023, SCWD should be looking to invest in DPR; all water agencies within Southern California are moving in that direction. West Basin decertified their EIR for their ocean desalination project after taking a hard look at cost and alternatives. SCWD's 3 recycled facilities produces 300 million gallons of recycled water per year – quite enough to meet the future needs of SCWD residents through IPR and with future DPR. This would more than offset the production of the proposed facility and would exceed it when coupled with conservation and stormwater capture.

We ask that you deny this project until DPR regulations are released and SCWD performs a cost benefit analysis with alternatives.

Sincerely,

Charming P Evelyn
Co-Chair Water Committee
Sierra Club California

Frankie Orono
Executive Director
Society of Native Nations

Conner Everts
Executive Director
Southern California Watershed Alliance
Desal Response Group

Martha Camacho-Rodriguez
Executive Director
Social Eco Education

Jack Eidt
Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action

Esperanza Vielma
Executive Director
The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

November 28, 2022

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825
CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Doheny Desalination Project - SUPPORT

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of CalDesal, I strongly urge your approval of the Doheny Desalination Project during your December 9, 2022 meeting, to advance it through the California State Lands Commission's permitting process and towards construction of this essential water resilience project.

CalDesal is a statewide association comprised of nearly 60 organizations, representing public and private sector entities as well as non-profit organizations, integrating the use of desalination to ensure a sustainable water future for communities throughout California. CalDesal is dedicated to helping California advance improved statewide water resilience which has been impacted by a changing climate, water supply challenges, and continued population growth.

As you all know well, California is experiencing increasingly extreme weather conditions, with less predictable precipitation patterns, followed by longer and more frequent dry and hot periods. Climate change is reducing the reliability of our precipitation and snowpack. As a result, California is entering a new era of water management, and the state's water managers must change the way they plan for a water resilient future that is very different from the past. Implementation of focused water conservation and water use efficiency programs has been the priority for water managers, and those efforts are increasingly being coupled with development of alternative water supplies, such as water recycling and desalination.

Produced locally, desalinated water provides new, high-quality water, and is resilient to both climate change and drought. Desalination can transform inland brackish water as well as coastal seawater into a drinkable supply. Desalination's ability to generate new water supplies in the face of an unrelenting drought is a valuable attribute that should be a strong component in our state's efforts to improve drought resiliency and water sustainability.

Your consideration of action on the Doheny Desalination Project on December 9, 2022 is critical to protecting the quality of life and economy within the Orange County region that will benefit from it. The project will provide up to 5 MGD of reliable, locally-controlled water supplies for the region, and it will do so using technology that is environmentally protective of ocean resources and marine life. The Doheny Desalination

Project will use advanced slant wells that protect marine life by using subsurface water intake technology. Not only will this project advance environmentally protective technologies, there is also an energy recovery process being considered for plant operations, which would result in up to 55 percent less energy usage than facilities without that feature.

Governor Gavin Newsom and his Administration have provided clear signals – through the Water Resilience Portfolio, the recently-released Water Supply Strategy, and in many other venues – that diversifying the state's water portfolio through an "All of the Above" approach to water supply sustainability includes desalination as an important water resilience strategy. While water conservation and water use efficiency remain important priorities for a water resilient future, the state has acknowledged that it must embrace the ongoing development of new water supplies, such as stormwater and water recycling along with desalination, where feasible.

While the stark reality is that the drought conditions that California is experiencing may be the "New Normal," the good news is that you have it in your hands as the California State Lands Commission to make decisions – through approval of the Doheny Desalination Project – to help one region of the state move forward in the pursuit of a water resilient future that helps sustain the quality of life and regional economy.

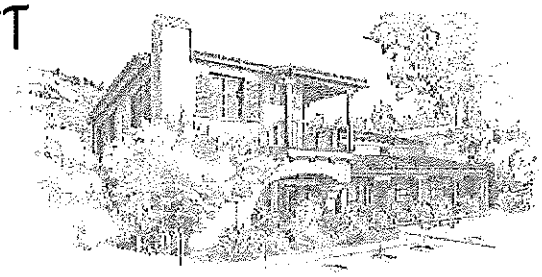
Again, CalDesal strongly urges your support for the Doheny Desalination Project at your December 9, 2022 hearing. Please don't hesitate to contact me at glennf@caldesal.org or at (916) 216-1747 if you have any questions regarding CalDesal's comments on these matters.

Sincerely,

GLENN A. FARREL
Executive Director, CalDesal

cc: Members, California State Lands Commission
Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District

LAGUNA BEACH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



INCORPORATED 1925

November 29, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov; **SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71**

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of Laguna Beach County Water District, I am pleased to convey and share with your Commission our strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

This technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project will enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with many stakeholders including local officials, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, especially during times of historic drought conditions which will become more frequent as climate change evolves. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies.

In addition to the water supply benefits, we support this Project because of SCWD's close collaboration with California State Parks relative to the location of project wells, accommodations to address impacts to State campgrounds during construction, and the potential mutual benefits, post-construction, to enhance the experience for those visiting the area. Further, the Project would be the first in the State to be fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities, utilizing subsurface intakes and comingling brine discharge with an existing wastewater outfall to avoid, or minimize, marine life impacts. For these reasons, we support the Project as it is consistent with public trust needs while safeguarding our natural resources, and it is in the best interests of the State.

The effects of the ongoing drought on the region and our local communities, combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, has prompted a need for innovation to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency. As such, it is a pleasure to convey Laguna Beach County Water District's strong support of the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

Keith Van Der Maaten
General Manager

INSERT AGENCY LETTERHEAD

November 30, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov; **SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71**

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of the South Laguna Water & Sewer Advisory Committee, this is to indicate our strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

This technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project. It will enhance water reliability for residents of South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. For more than eight years SCWD has worked collaboratively with many stakeholders including local officials, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

During times of historic drought conditions which will become more frequent as climate change evolves this Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies.

In addition to the water supply benefits, we support this Project because of SCWD's close collaboration with California State Parks on the location of project wells, accommodations to address impacts to State campgrounds during construction, and post-construction benefits to Doheny State Beach Park that will enhance the experience for those visiting the area. This Project would be the first in the State to be in full compliance with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities. It will utilize subsurface intakes and comingle the outfall brine discharge with treated wastewater to minimize impacts to marine life. The Project is consistent with public trust needs. It will safeguard our natural resources and is in the best interests of the State.

The effects of the ongoing drought on the region and our local communities, combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, has prompted a need for innovation to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's

reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency. As such, it is a pleasure to convey South Laguna Water & Sewer Advisory Committee's strong support of your Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your public service and for looking out for the needs of the residents and businesses in south Orange County.

Very truly yours,

Eric Jessen, Chair
South Laguna Water & Sewer Advisory Committee

Street Address:
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, California 92708

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 20895
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-0895

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Fax: (714) 964-9389
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November 30, 2022

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

SUBJECT: Doheny Desalination Project – SUPPORT

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), I am pleased to convey and share with your Commission our strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project.

MWDOC is a member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), providing imported water to over 2.4 million Orange County residents through 27 water agencies. MWDOC's service area covers all of Orange County with the exception of the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana. As a wholesale water supplier and resource planning agency, MWDOC's efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education, and emergency preparedness.

California is experiencing increasingly extreme weather conditions, with less predictable precipitation patterns, followed by longer and more frequent dry and hot periods. Climate change is reducing the reliability of our precipitation and snowpack, which severely impacts our state's water supplies. Produced locally, desalinated water provides new, high-quality water, which is resilient to both climate change and drought. Desalination's ability to generate new water supplies in the face of drought and climate change is a valuable component in our state's efforts to improve drought resiliency and water sustainability.

Your consideration of action on the Doheny Desalination Project is critical to supporting both quality of life and the economy within the Orange County region. This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies.

Not only will the project provide up to 5 MGD of reliable, local water supplies for the region, it will do so using subsurface slant well technology that is environmentally protective of ocean resources and marine life. This project will advance environmentally protective technologies, as well as an energy recovery process being considered for plant operations, which would result in up to 55 percent less energy usage than facilities without this feature.

The reality is that California's ongoing and persistent drought conditions may be a new way of life for our state. You have it within your ability as members of the California State Lands Commission to make decisions – through approval of the Doheny Desalination Project to help this region of the state move forward in the pursuit of a water resilient future that helps sustain the quality of life and the regional economy in an environmentally sensitive manner.

We strongly urge your support for approval of the Doheny Desalination Project during your December 9, 2022 State Lands Commission hearing to advance this project through the Commission's permitting process and towards construction of this essential water resilience opportunity.

Sincerely,

Megan Yoo Schneider, M.S., P.E.
President, Municipal Water District of Orange County

cc: Members, California State Lands Commission
Robert J. Hunter, General Manager, Municipal Water District of Orange County
Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District

November 30, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov;
SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71 PERMIT FOR DOHENY DESALINATION PROJECT

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

I am currently an elected director for Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and prior to that I was a staff member at MWDOC for 37 years. Between about 2002 and 2014 I worked on the technical aspects of the Doheny Desalination Project on behalf of MWDOC to investigate the use of a subsurface slantwell intake system including the construction and operation of a test slantwell and treatment of the water. I have continued to follow the work completed by South Coast Water District (SCWD) on the technical evaluations and permitting of the project. I would strongly urge approval of the California State Lands Commission permit to advance the Doheny Desalination Project towards construction of this essential water reliability project for SCWD and South Orange County.

Water resources supplying Southern California are continuing to experience increasingly extreme weather conditions, with less predictable precipitation and runoff patterns, followed by longer and more frequent dry and hot periods. Climate change is reducing the reliability of our supplies. The Doheny Project will produce locally available, high-quality water which is resilient to both climate change and drought. Possibly the most important aspect is the "locally available" characteristic as South Orange County has few local water resources but is subject to imported water that is treated adjacent to a fault and travels over 40 miles in pipelines crossing another four faults before reaching South Orange County. Having a new supply that can provide local reliability when the import system has outages is of great importance.

Your consideration of action on the Doheny Desalination Project permit is critical to protecting the quality of life and economy within the South Orange County region that will benefit from the project. Not only will the project provide up to 5 MGD of reliable, locally controlled water supplies, it will do so using technology that is environmentally protective of ocean resources and marine life using slantwells to draw the water in from beneath the ocean. This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, especially as climate change evolves.

Again, I strongly urge your support and approval of the permit for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me at karlwseckel@gmail.com or call at 714-423-3361 if you have any questions regarding my comments on these matters.

Sincerely,

Karl W. Seckel

Karl W. Seckel, P.E., Elected Director MWDOC Division 4
Formerly staff member at MWDOC

SOCWA

South Orange County Wastewater Authority

November 30, 2022

Donne Brownsey
Chair
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105
Donne.Brownsey@coastal.ca.gov

Dear Chair Brownsey:

On behalf of South Orange County Wastewater Authority, I am pleased to convey and share with your Commission our strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project.

This technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project will enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with stakeholders and officials with local cities, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, especially during times of historic drought conditions which will become more frequent as climate change evolves. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies.

In addition to the water supply benefits, we support this Project because it complies with the California Ocean Plan and protects the marine environment by implementing the preferred intake and discharge technologies, i.e., using a subsurface ocean water intake system to draw water passively through the ocean floor and return the post-desalination brine to the ocean via an existing outfall.

The serious implications of drought restrictions on our local communities, especially when combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, justifiably inspire SCWD and its neighboring districts to be innovative in their ongoing mission to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency.

It is a pleasure to convey our strong support of the California Coastal Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

B. Burnett

Betty Burnett
General Manager

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Our Mission…
The EVMWD team delivers total water management that powers the health and vibrancy of its communities so life can flourish.

November 30, 2022

ELECTRONIC MAIL

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

SUBJECT: DOHENY DESALINATION PROJECT – SUPPORT

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Elsinore Valley Water District (EVMWD), we strongly urge your support for approval of the Doheny Desalination Project during the December 9, 2022 State Lands Commission hearing to advance this project through the Commission's permitting process and towards construction of this essential water resilience opportunity.

EVMWD is a public water agency that provides water service, wastewater treatment and recycled water service, and water supply development and planning. The District has over 49,000 water and 36,000 wastewater service connections. The District is a retail agency of the Western Municipal Water District, a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. A majority of the District's water, approximately sixty-five percent, is imported into southern California via aqueducts, pipelines and storage reservoirs.

California is experiencing increasingly extreme weather conditions, with less predictable precipitation patterns, followed by longer and more frequent dry and hot periods. Climate change is reducing the reliability of our precipitation and snowpack. Produced locally, desalinated water provides new, high-quality water, and is resilient to both climate change and drought. Desalination can transform inland brackish water as well as coastal seawater into a drinkable supply. Desalination's ability to generate new water supplies in the face of an unrelenting drought is a valuable attribute that should be a strong component in our state's efforts to improve drought resiliency and water sustainability, and as identified in the Governor's comprehensive water resilience plan, "California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future" released in August 2022.

Your consideration of action on the Doheny Desalination Project is critical to protecting the quality of life and economy within the Orange County region that will benefit from it. Not only will the project provide up to 5 MGD of reliable, locally-controlled water supplies for the region, it will do so using technology that is environmentally protective of ocean resources and marine life. The Doheny Desalination Project will use advanced slant wells that protect marine life by using subsurface water intake technology. This project will advance

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www.evmwd.com

31315 Chaney Street
P.O. Box 3000
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

environmentally protective technologies, and there is also an energy recovery process being considered for plant operations, which would result in up to 55 percent less energy usage than facilities without that feature.

While the reality is that California's ongoing and persistent drought conditions may be a new way of life for our state. You have it within your ability as Members of the California State Lands Commission to make decisions – through approval of the Doheny Desalination Project to help one region of the state move forward in the pursuit of a water resilient future that helps sustain the quality of life and regional economy.

Again, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District strongly urges your support for the Doheny Desalination Project at your December 9, 2022 hearing. Please don't hesitate to contact me at gthomas@evmwd.net or (951) 674-3146 x8243 if you have any questions regarding our organization's comments on these matters.

Sincerely,

Greg Thomas
General Manager

GT/cg

cc: Members, California State Lands Commission
Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District

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From: Richard Bell
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings
Cc: rshintaku@scwd.org
Subject: December 9, 2022 SLC Meeting - Item 71 Doheny Desalination Project - SUPPORT
Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 11:44:23 AM

Dear Commissioners,

It is a pleasure to submit the following comments in support of the South Coast Water District Doheny Ocean Desalination Project's advanced slant well subsurface intakes. I urge your approval of the project at your scheduled December 9, 2022 State Lands Commission meeting.

In the early 2000's, at the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), as Manager of Water Resources and Facility Planning, I was responsible for the preparation of the South Orange County Water Reliability Plan and then was Project Manager for the investigation of an ocean desalination plant in South Orange County to provide for both essential water supply and system reliability improvements. We investigated several types of subsurface intake facilities. After a thorough review and discovering a new water well drilling methodology working with Geoscience Support Service we determined that slant well technology would be the most cost-effective and least impacting subsurface ocean water intake to construct. The slant well intake system completely avoids entrainment and impingement impacts to marine life. Since the use of a subsurface intake well obviously has to be installed into alluvium, the only location in the South Orange County area that had sufficient alluvial sands and gravel deposits along and offshore of the coast is situated off of San Juan Creek.

With your prior approvals and other agencies approvals, we successfully installed and tested the Doheny Test Slant Well and Mobile Test Facility over several years at Doheny State Beach with strong support from the CA Department of Recreation and Parks as their water supply is provided by South Coast Water District and the park overlies the aquifer. Our investigation was conducted with five South Orange County participating agencies. My supervisor at MWDOC, Karl Seckel was the Project Director. After our feasibility investigation was completed, we were both very pleased that South Coast Water District pursued the project as it is located within their district boundaries. SCWD is extremely dependent on imported water and quite vulnerable to drought and imported water system outages. SCWD has both the available land with existing water supply pipelines as well as being adjacent to the South Coast Wastewater Authority wastewater treatment plant and its two mile ocean outfall. It is the perfect location for an ocean desalination project and wastewater recycling purification project for South Orange County. Your staff over those years were very knowledgeable and helpful and have been a great value to California's protection and sustainability and proper use of our coastal resources.

I strongly support the approval of the application before you for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project as its water supply is essential to the public health and safety of the area and to the local economy providing both drought and imported water supply protection from outages from earthquakes, floods or other forms of facility failure. The project will be the first of its kind to utilize subsurface slant well technology for ocean desalination feedwater. It will indeed be a long awaited model for others to consider in the future. With the worsening climate warming and drying trend, it is critical that this project be approved and implemented as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Bell, P.E.

From: shinman@cox.net
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings
Cc: "Jody Brennan"
Subject: 12/9/2022. ITEM 71
Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 2:22:13 PM

[redacted]
Dana Point, CA 92629

December 1, 2022

Jennifer Locchesi
Executive Officer
California State Land Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95725

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

A s a long-time actively involved Dana Point citizen I wish to express my wholehearted support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Having served ten years on the South Coast Water District Board of Directors followed by sixteen years on the Municipal Water District of Orange County Board, I am well aware of the critical importance that this well-planned, environmentally sensitive project has in ensuring future water reliability in South Orange County

Over many years South Coast Water District has worked diligently with affiliated governmental agencies to secure funding to develop this environmentally responsible project. They have also effectively communicated with our residents and businesses about the Doheny Desalination Project's impacts and benefits.

South Orange County is currently 90% dependent on imported water from the State Water Project and the Colorado River. The Doheny Ocean Desalination Project will significantly help diversify our local water supply along with additional conservation programs. It will also provide a critically needed supply in the event of an emergency or disaster.

We all value our marine environment at Doheny State Beach and are confident that the subsurface intake strategy technology, accompanied by comingling the brine with treated wastewater is environmentally responsible. It is also good to know that SCWD will be coordinating with Californian Sate Parks relative to the location of project wells, making accommodations to address impact to State campgrounds during construction and potential mutual benefits, post-construction.

I urge the State Lands Commission approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. It has been extremely well researched, effectively presented to our ratepayers, and will be a greatly valued, reliable resource to South Orange County residents for many years into the future.

Sincerely,

Susan Hinman

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Our Mission…
The EVMWD team delivers total water management that powers the health and vibrancy of its communities so life can flourish.

December 2, 2022

ELECTRONIC MAIL

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

SUBJECT: DOHENY DESALINATION PROJECT – SUPPORT

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD), we strongly support the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project)).

The slant-well technological approach the project utilizes is unique to this geology, improves water quality, and is environmentally sensitive. This ocean water desalination project enhances South Coast Water District's (SCWD) water reliability and that of the region's. To move the Project forward, SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with stakeholders, city officials, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and key stakeholders throughout southern California. Prior to SCWD taking the lead, the Municipal Water District of Orange County initiated the Project, received several research and planning grants, performed extensive pilot testing, water quality testing, and facilitated stakeholder engagement. The development of this key water reliability Project has spanned over eighteen years and its need has only grown. To date, SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels securing more than $32 million in critical Project grant funding.

This Project enables SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its imported water dependence from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project. This independence is especially important during these historic drought conditions, evolving climate change, and looming water allocations. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies. During the eighteen years the project has been considered, south Orange County, and specifically SCWD, has reduced its dependence on imported water from 100% to 90%, investing in local water supplies including recycling and conservation.

In addition to water supply benefits, we support this Project because it complies with the California Ocean Plan and protects the marine environment by implementing

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P.O. Box 3000
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

preferred intake and discharge technologies. Specifically, the Project employs a subsurface ocean water intake system, drawing water passively through the ocean floor and blending the "post-desalination" brine with treated wastewater for disposal, utilizing an existing outfall.

The serious drought restriction implications on our local communities, especially when combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, justifiably motivate SCWD and its neighboring districts. Their innovation and ongoing mission strives to achieve a diverse and reliable water portfolio that implements sound water resource management strategies. In the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency, the Project will be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's imported water reliance and ensuring water supply reliability.

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District is a strong proponent and supporter of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project, and we are looking forward to the California State Land Commission's thoughtful consideration and approval. On behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources, thank you.

Sincerely,

Darcy M. Burke, M.B.A.
Board President

cc: Members, California State Lands Commission
Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District

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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

December 2, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

Submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov, Subject: 12/9/2022: Item 71

Re: Support of Proposed Doheny Ocean Desalination Project

Ms. Lucchesi:

South Coast Water District (SCWD) is proposing to develop the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. SCWD has demonstrated a need for the project to diversify its water supply portfolio and to reduce its dependence on stressed imported water supplies. It has also demonstrated that the project would provide increased reliability during earthquake events that could damage regional water infrastructure.

SCWD has a track record of developing effective water infrastructure. As the primary beneficiary of the project, SCWD proposes to fund the design, construction, and operation of the project. It is also offering the opportunity for other south Orange County retail water agencies to participate in the project on an optional basis. Furthermore, the project has been shown to be cost competitive and environmentally feasible, and would provide high quality water without impacting other water supplies or marine resources. IRWD is supportive of this approach to the development of an ocean desalination project. IRWD supports the State Lands Commission's approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project.

IRWD appreciates the opportunity to provide the above comments on the proposed Doheny Project. Please provide a copy of this letter to each member of the State Lands Commission. If you would like to discuss IRWD's comments further, feel free to contact me at (949) 453-5590 or cook@irwd.com.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Cook, P.E.
General Manager

cc: Rick Shintaku, SCWD (rshintaku@scwd.org)

December 2, 2022

Submitted Via Email:
CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov

Ms. Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water), a water, wastewater, and recycled water provider to 150,000 residents in southwest Riverside County, I am pleased to convey our strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

The Doheny Desalination Project is a regionally significant, technologically unique, and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project that will enhance water reliability for the South Coast Water District (SCWD) and much of the southwest California region. SCWD has worked collaboratively with various stakeholders for more than eight years to further this important project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

In addition to the water supply benefits, Rancho Water supports this project because of SCWD's close collaboration with California State Parks relative to the location of project wells, accommodations to address impacts to State campgrounds during construction, and the potential mutual benefits, post-construction, to enhance the experience for those visiting the area. Further, the Project would be the first in the State to fully comply with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities, utilizing subsurface intakes and comingling brine discharge with an existing wastewater outfall to avoid or minimize marine life impacts. For these reasons, we support the Project as it is consistent with public trust needs while safeguarding our natural resources, and it is in the best interests of the State.

The effects of the ongoing drought on the region and our local communities, combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, have prompted a need for innovation to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of

water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency.

Rancho Water supports innovative water reliability solutions, such as the Doheny Desalination Project, and we encourage the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. I appreciate your consideration of this project, and if I can be of assistance during your deliberations, please contact me at (951) 296-6909 or by email at granthamr@ranchowater.com.

Sincerely,

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT

Robert S. Grantham
General Manager

110/rg

CHRIS HANNAN
Executive Secretary

Los Angeles / Orange Counties
Building and Construction
Trades Council
Affiliated with the Building & Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

December 2, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov; SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of the Los Angeles and Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, I am pleased to convey and share with your Commission our strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

This technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project will enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with many stakeholders including local officials, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, especially during times of historic drought conditions which will become more frequent as climate change evolves. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies.

In addition to the water supply benefits, we support this Project because of SCWD's close collaboration with California State Parks relative to the location of project wells, accommodations to address impacts to State campgrounds during construction, and the potential mutual benefits, post-construction, to enhance the experience for those visiting the area. Further, the Project would be the first in the State to be fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities, utilizing subsurface intakes and comingling brine discharge with an existing wastewater outfall to avoid, or minimize, marine life impacts. For these reasons, we support the Project as it is consistent with public trust needs while safeguarding our natural resources, and it is in the best interests of the State.

The effects of the ongoing drought on the region and our local communities, combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, has prompted a need for innovation to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a

local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency.

Furthermore, we will be providing the most skilled and trained construction workers that have completed or are undergoing training from our Joint Labor Management and State Certified Apprenticeship Training Centers. The project will provide good Union wages, benefits and the safest and most efficient work standards made available through our partnership with our Employers.

As such, it is a pleasure to convey the Los Angeles and Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council strong support of the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Medrano
Orange County Council Representative

Cc: Rick Shintaku
Jody Brennan

LISA A. BARTLETT
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION NORTH
400 W. CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, 6th FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701
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December 5, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
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Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov;

SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

I am pleased to convey and share with your Commission my strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

This technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project will enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with many stakeholders including local officials, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, especially during times of historic drought conditions which will become more frequent as climate change evolves. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies.

In addition to the water supply benefits, we support this Project because of SCWD's close collaboration with California State Parks relative to the location of project wells, accommodations to address impacts to State campgrounds during construction, and the potential mutual benefits, post-construction, to enhance the experience for those visiting the area. Further, the Project would be the first in the State to be fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities, utilizing subsurface intakes and comingling brine discharge with an existing wastewater outfall to avoid, or minimize, marine life impacts. For these reasons, we support the Project as it is consistent with public trust needs while safeguarding our natural resources, and it is in the best interests of the State.

The effects of the ongoing drought on the region and our local communities, combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, has prompted a need for innovation to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency. As such, it is a pleasure to convey my strong support of the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Bartlett
Supervisor, Fifth District

Santa Margarita Water District

December 5, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi *submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov*
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of the Santa Margarita Water District ("District") Board of Directors, I am pleased to convey our support of the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. It is our perspective that the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project ("Doheny" or "Project") is a technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project that can enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District ("SCWD") and the region. It is an important demonstration that small-scale, distributed ocean desalinization plants are not only feasible, but may ultimately provide enhanced water supply reliability to coastal California. It will clearly enable SCWD to diversify its water portfolio and reduce dependence on imported water.

In addition to the water supply benefits and the development of slant wells, the project location provides future opportunities for potable reuse through the possible comingling of treated wastewater from the nearby J.B. Latham Treatment Plant, once the potable reuse standards are finalized. The existing ocean outfall averages approximately six million gallons a day in secondary effluent, which could be recycled for irrigation, groundwater recharge, and could be a potential source water to commingle with the ocean source water. We support this Project because of the opportunities it provides not only SCWD, but the region, again, potentially demonstrating leadership in potable water development.

With respect to the permit at issue, SCWD has collaborated closely with California State Parks on key issues to address impacts to State campgrounds and the potential mutual benefits of the Project. The Project is consistent with public trust needs while safeguarding our natural resources, and it is in the best interests of the State.

With all this in mind, the District supports the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Ferons
General Manager

Mesa Water DISTRICT®

Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marice H. DePasquale
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Division III

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District Secretary

Marwan Khalifa, CPA, MBA
District Treasurer

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
Legal Counsel

1965 Placentia Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
tel 949.631.1200
fax 949.574.1036
info@MesaWater.org
MesaWater.org

December 5, 2022

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825
(via email to: CSLC.CommissionMeetings@SLC.CA.gov)

SUBJECT: Doheny Desalination Project – SUPPORT

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®), we are pleased to convey to you and the California State Lands Commission (State Lands) our strong support for the Doheny Desalination Project (Doheny Desal). Further, during your December 9, 2022 hearing, Mesa Water urges your approval of Doheny Desal to advance this project through State Lands' permitting process and towards construction of this essential water resilience opportunity.

Mesa Water is an independent special district that serves safe, affordable, and 100 percent local reliable groundwater to businesses and 110,000 residents in an 18-square-mile service area of Orange County that includes most of Costa Mesa, a portion of Newport Beach, and John Wayne Airport. Mesa Water supports the development of cost-effective and environmentally-sensitive sources of water -- such as water recycling and desalination -- which includes support for Doheny Desal as the project can provide a new, reliable, locally-controlled, and high quality water supply that is appropriately priced.

California is experiencing increasingly extreme weather conditions, with less predictable precipitation patterns, followed by longer and more frequent dry and hot periods. Climate change is reducing the reliability of the state's precipitation and snowpack. Doheny Desal is an essential water resilience project and an important step toward ensuring that water resiliency is advanced in Orange County, and toward insulating the region's community and economy from the devastating impacts of prolonged and ongoing drought.

As a technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project, Doheny Desal will enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. For over eight years, SCWD has worked collaboratively with stakeholders and officials representing local cities, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County, and regionally, to further Doheny Desal. To date, SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for Doheny Desal.

Orange County's water systems and their customers have implemented water conservation and water use efficiency programs, and the region continues to develop alternate water supplies, including water recycling and desalination. Doheny Desal will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, especially during droughts which will become more frequent as climate change evolves. Doheny Desal is especially

important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on imported water supplies.

Your consideration of support and approval action for Doheny Desal is critical to protecting Orange County's quality of life, economy, and environment. Additionally, increased local water reliability in Orange County will benefit Southern California, and the state, with SCWD's use of Doheny Desal water reducing its reliance on imported water from distant locations…thus freeing up those supplies for use by other areas, such as the Central Valley, that depend on imported water for farming and families.

In addition to the water supply benefits, we support Doheny Desal because it complies with the California Ocean Plan and protects the marine environment by implementing the preferred intake and discharge technologies, i.e., using advanced slant wells and a subsurface ocean water intake system to draw water passively through the ocean floor, and comingling the "post-desalination" brine back with treated wastewater for disposal through an existing outfall. Also, for its plant operations, Doheny Desal is considering an energy recovery process that would result in up to 55 percent less energy use than facilities without this feature.

Governor Newsom and his Administration have provided clear signals -- through the state's document entitled "California's Water Supply Strategy" and in many other venues -- that diversifying the state's water portfolio through an "All of the Above" approach to water supply sustainability includes desalination as an important water resilience strategy. Furthermore, the state has acknowledged that it must embrace the ongoing development of new water supplies, such as desalination.

It is a pleasure to express Mesa Water's strong support of State Lands' consideration of approval action for Doheny Desal at your December 9, 2022 hearing. We appreciate your attention to this request and, if you have any questions or need additional information about Mesa Water's comments on these matters, please feel free to contact me, or Mesa Water's General Manager, Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., at PaulS@MesaWater.org or 949.631.1206, or Mesa Water's Water Policy Manager, Stacy Taylor, at StacyT@MesaWater.org or 714.791.0848.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to, and efforts on behalf of, our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

Marice H. DePasquale
Mesa Water Board President
MariceD@MesaWater.org

c: Members, California State Lands Commission
South Coast Water District Board of Directors
Rick Shintaku, P.E., South Coast Water District General Manager
Mesa Water Board of Directors
Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., Mesa Water General Manager
CalDesal

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

December 5, 2022

Chair Betty T. Yee
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825
CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov

Dear Chair Yee:

Support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project

The purpose of this letter is to express The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan) support for the South Coast Water District's (SCWD) California State Lands Commission (CSLC) lease request for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

Metropolitan is the largest provider of treated water in the United States, serving 19 million Californians within our 5,200-square-mile service area. Metropolitan's mission is to provide adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

In partnership with local water agencies, Metropolitan is a leader in implementing a One Water approach for supply reliability. Metropolitan has invested over $1.5 billion in drought-resilient resources such as conservation, recycling, groundwater recovery and storage. Our water agency partners such as the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and SCWD have invested many billions more. The unprecedented severity of California's current drought coupled with the extreme shortage on the Colorado River underscore an urgent need for continued diversification of Southern California's water resource portfolio with sustainable new supplies.

Metropolitan recognizes the many sustainability features specific to the Project. The Project withdraws ocean water using slant well sub-surface intakes and discharges brine through an existing wastewater outfall. These approaches lessen short-term construction impacts, energy demands and potential marine life impacts of the Project. The Project also offers opportunities for future phased expansion including supply augmentation through Direct Potable Reuse.

Metropolitan, through MWDOC, provides 90 percent of the potable drinking water for South Orange County, including SCWD. Because of this dependence, new local water supplies such as desalination are important strategies for increasing both local and regional water resilience. For these reasons, Metropolitan supports approval of the Project's CSLC lease request.

Please contact Warren Teitz on my staff at 213-217-7418 or via e-mail at wteitz@mwdh2o.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

December 5, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov; **SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71**

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

The City of Dana Point (City) works very closely with the South Coast Water District (SCWD) team on a variety of issues daily, and we appreciate the relationship we have developed and maintain.

The Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project) in the City is an environmentally sensitive Project that will enhance water reliability for SCWD customers and the region as a whole. SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with many stakeholders including local City officials, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project. In addition to the water supply benefits, the Project team has collaborated with California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission relative to the location of project wells and will also construct improved accommodations in the Doheny State Beach campground. Further, the Project would be the first in the State to be fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities, utilizing subsurface intakes and comingling brine discharge with an existing wastewater outfall to avoid, or minimize, marine life impacts.

Therefore, the City is pleased to provide its support of the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Project. Thank you for your consideration, and please include this letter in the public record.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Killebrew
City of Dana Point
City Manager

32400 PASEO ADELANTO
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92675
(949) 493-1171
(949) 493-1053 FAX
www.sanjuancapistrano.org

December 5, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Office
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of the City of San Juan Capistrano, please accept this letter of support for the proposed Doheny Ocean Desalination Plant (Project). The Project, as proposed by South Coast Water District (SCWD), would provide a safe, reliable, drought-proof, and locally controlled water supply to residents in south Orange County. Unique features of this Project include piloting the technology of coastal slant wells. This technology has the ability to diversify SCWD's drinking water supply, while providing valuable technical data to further the concept regionally, statewide, and even nationally. An augmented water supply will help reduce dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, as vividly highlighted over the last several months. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on imported water supplies.

In addition to the water supply benefits and the development of slant wells, the project location provides future opportunities for potable reuse through the possible comingling of treated wastewater. The existing ocean outfall averages approximately six million gallons a day in secondary effluent, which could be recycled for irrigation, groundwater recharge, and a potential source water to commingle with the ocean source water. We express our support for this Project because it has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Benjamin Siegel, City Manager, at (949) 443-6314 or by email at bsiegel@sanjuancapistrano.org.

Sincerely,

Derek Reeve

Derek Reeve
Mayor

December 5, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov;

SUBJECT: December 9, 2022: Item 71

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

On behalf of Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) and our Board of Directors, we are pleased to express support for the proposed Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

EMWD provides water, wastewater and recycled water service to nearly one million customers in western Riverside County and is currently California's sixth-largest retail water agency. Our water supply portfolio includes a blend of water imported from the Sacramento San Joaquin Bay Delta and the Colorado River, groundwater, desalinated groundwater, and recycled water. Our service area is also in one of the fastest growing regions in California therefore we have continually invested in a broad range of water supply projects so that we are prepared to meet the current needs, as well as those for future generations. Earlier this year, EMWD celebrated the completion of its third groundwater desalination facility, which increased our total desalination capacity to 14 million gallons per day.

As California and the western United States continue to face water supply and infrastructure challenges, it is critical that the state and local agencies responsibly invest in a diverse portfolio of projects and programs that will help create a sustainable and drought-resilient water supply future. We believe this project will accomplish these goals in an environmentally responsible manner.

This technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project will enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with many stakeholders including local officials, other special districts,

2270 Trumble Road • P.O. Box 8300 • Perris, CA 92572-8300
T 951.928.3777 • F 951.928.6177 www.emwd.org

nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

EMWD's Board of Directors is looking at all potential sources of water, and as such, has directed staff to enter into a formal letter of interest regarding a potential partnership for the proposed Project. In addition to the water supply benefits, we support this Project because of SCWD's close collaboration with California State Parks relative to the location of project wells, accommodations to address impacts to State campgrounds during construction, and the potential mutual benefits, post-construction, to enhance the experience for those visiting the area. Further, the Project would be the first in the State to be fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities, utilizing subsurface intakes and commingling brine discharge with an existing wastewater outfall to avoid, or minimize, marine life impacts. For these reasons, we support the Project as it is consistent with public trust needs while safeguarding our natural resources, and it is in the best interests of the State.

The serious implications of drought restrictions on our local communities, especially when combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, justifiably inspired SCWD and its neighboring districts to be innovative to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency.

EMWD respectfully requests the California State Lands Commission to provide favorable consideration and approval of the proposed Doheny Beach Desalination Project. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 951-928-6130 or mouawadj@emwd.org. Thank you for your time and consideration on this critical project that will provide a more secure water supply future for our region.

Sincerely,

Phil Paule
President, Board of Directors

Joe Mouawad, P.E.
General Manager

c: Rick Shintaku and Marc Serna, South Coast Water District

December 5, 2022

Ms. Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

SUBJECT: Doheny Desalination Project – SCH #2016031038, Application No. 3216 – SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

We are writing on behalf of Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. (KIWC) in support of the Doheny Desalination Project (Project). Application No. 3216 is scheduled for consideration at the December 9, 2022, California State Lands Commission (Commission) hearing and would advance the Project through the Commission's permitting process.

KIWC is a subsidiary of Kiewit, one of North America's largest and most respected construction and engineering organizations. With its roots dating back to 1884, our employee-owned organization operates through a network of subsidiaries in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Kiewit has been building California water projects since the Friant-Kern Canal in 1949. We have considerable desalination construction and engineering experience, including the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant and the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant in Santa Barbara. Kiewit's commitment to safety, quality and environmental stewardship are ingrained in everything we do. It is visible in our core values, the work we build and in our people. In California, in 2021 alone, we had more than 2,920 total direct hire and staff personnel who performed over 1.8 million work hours.

As you know well, California has increasingly extreme weather conditions, with less predictable precipitation patterns, followed by longer and more frequent dry and hot periods. Recognizing this, in 2019 Governor Newsom issued an executive order calling for State Agencies to create a comprehensive water resilience portfolio, focusing specifically on diversification and new, innovative technologies. More recently, Governor Newsom's Water Plan calls for the expansion of water reuse, including desalination. Produced locally, desalination's ability to generate new water supplies in the face of an unrelenting drought is a valuable attribute that should be a strong component in our state's efforts to improve drought resiliency and water sustainability.

Not only will the first phase of this Project provide up to 5 MGD of reliable, locally controlled water, the Project will be the first seawater desalination facility to use the Ocean Plan Desalination Amendment preferred intake and discharge methods.

KIEWIT INFRASTRUCTURE WEST CO.
10704 Shoemaker Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 946-1816

The Modified Project benefits the Doheny project by removing interferences and ensuring the project schedule is achievable. That benefits the local State Parks by removing interferences to the North Day Use Area and repairing, restoring and improving the Dillion State Beach Campgrounds following construction to a new and pristine state.

We encourage your support of Application No. 3216; it is critical to advancing this Project and protecting the quality of life and economy of Orange County. The approval of the Project will help the region and state move forward to a more water resilient future. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and your service to California. If Kiewit can answer any questions, please contact us at (562) 946-1816.

Sincerely,

Terrence L. Robinson
Senior Vice President

Brian Rapp
Operations Manager

cc: Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District

KIEWIT INFRASTRUCTURE WEST CO.
10704 Shoemaker Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 946-1816

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0073
(916) 319-2073
FAX (916) 319-2173
E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Davies@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly
California Legislature

LAURIE DAVIES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
29122 RANCHO VIEJO ROAD, SUITE 111
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92675
(949) 347-7301
FAX (949) 347-7302

December 6, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov; **SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71**

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

As the State Assemblywoman representing Dana Point, I am pleased to convey and share with your Commission my office's strong support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project).

This technologically unique and environmentally sensitive ocean water desalination project will enhance water reliability for South Coast Water District (SCWD) and the region. SCWD has worked collaboratively for more than eight years with many stakeholders including local officials, other special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations, and others in Orange County and regionally in furtherance of this Project. SCWD has also worked diligently at the State and Federal levels to secure more than $32 million in critical grant funding for the Project to date.

This Project will enable SCWD to further diversify its water supply portfolio and reduce its dependence on imported water from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project, especially during times of historic drought conditions which will become more frequent as climate change evolves. The Project is particularly important to south Orange County, which is roughly 90% dependent on these imported water supplies.

In addition to the water supply benefits, we support this Project because of SCWD's close collaboration with California State Parks relative to the location of project wells, accommodations to address impacts to State campgrounds during construction, and the potential mutual benefits, post-construction, to enhance the experience for those visiting the area. Further, the Project would be the first in the State to be fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan's preferred intake and discharge technologies for ocean desalination facilities, utilizing subsurface intakes and comingling brine discharge with an existing wastewater outfall to avoid, or minimize, marine life impacts. For these

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(916) 319-2073
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E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Davies@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly
California Legislature

LAURIE DAVIES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
29122 RANCHO VIEJO ROAD, SUITE 111
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92675
(949) 347-7301
FAX (949) 347-7302

reasons, we support the Project as it is consistent with public trust needs while safeguarding our natural resources, and it is in the best interests of the State.

The effects of the ongoing drought on the region and our local communities, combined with the region's overwhelming reliance on imported water, has prompted a need for innovation to achieve a diverse and reliable portfolio of water projects and management strategies. The Project has the potential to be a local and regional asset, reducing south Orange County's reliance on imported water and ensuring supply reliability in the event of a natural disaster or other major emergency. As such, it is a pleasure to convey my office's strong support of the California State Lands Commission's consideration and approval of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

Laurie Davies

Laurie Davies
Assemblywoman, 74th District

Office of City Council
Steve Knoblock, Councilmember

Phone: (949) 361-8322
E-mail: KnoblockS@san-clemente.org

December 6, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

Submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov; **SUBJECT: 12/9/2022: ITEM 71**

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

I am pleased to convey and share with your Commission the San Clemente City Council's April 19, 2022 support for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project). I bring to your attention the attached letter to this effect as evidence of this unanimous support.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to and efforts on behalf of our residents, businesses, and the region's resources.

Sincerely,

Steve Knoblock
Councilmember

Office of City Manager
Sean Joyce, Interim City Manager
Phone: (949) 361-8322 Fax: (949) 361-8283
E-mail: JoyceS@san-clemente.org

September 27, 2022

South Coast Water District
Rick Shintaku, General Manager
31592 West Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Dear Mr. Shintaku,

The City appreciates South Coast Water District (SCWD) for exploring regional partnerships to improve local water supply reliability in South Orange County. Pursuant to the direction of the City Council at its April 19, 2022 meeting, this letter signifies the City's interest in diversifying its potable water supply portfolio through potential participation in the Doheny Desalination Project.

At this time, the City is interested in exploring the financial viability for utilizing SCWD's excess capacity in the pilot project from one to three million gallons per day prior to making any commitments. To evaluate the financial viability and as previously offered, the City is requesting assistance from South Coast Water District's project team and financial consultants to work with City staff to evaluate its costs for participation. Some examples may include additional costs for: lease of land, offset of costs for impacts to the San Juan Groundwater Basin, projected project costs, operating costs and potential operating or construction increases in the future. The information obtained from the analysis will allow the City to evaluate potential rate impacts to its customers and determine its potential participation in the project.

At this time, the project will be coordinated through the Utilities Department; please contact David Rebensdorf, Utilities Director at (949) 361-6130.

Sincerely,

Sean Joyce
Interim City Manager

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

December 6, 2022

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825
Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov

submitted via email to CSLC.Commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Lucchesi:

I write to request full consideration of the permit application for the South Coast Water District's Doheny Desalination Facility.

I have worked to secure over $22 million in federal funding for this project, including $20 million in U.S. Bureau of Reclamation desalination program grant funding, the maximum level provided under the program. The South Coast Water District received this funding in two phases, with $8.3 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and an additional $11.7 million in FY2021. In addition, I helped secured $2.4 million through the FY2022 appropriations process.

The facility will improve the local water supply in South Orange County by producing up to 5,300 acre-feet per year of new, local potable water for those served by South Coast Water District. South Orange County is roughly 90 percent reliant on imported water for its water supply. The Doheny Desalination Facility would fulfill a critical need for our area by providing a local source for water during significant droughts and an emergency supply when delivery of imported water is disrupted.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration of this permit and look forward to the positive water supply reliability and economic impacts of this facility for our region. Please contact me or my staff if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

U.S. SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
- CHAIR, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
- CHAIR, ENERGY AND WATER SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

December 6, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, California 95825

Dear Executive Officer Lucchesi,

I am writing to express my support for South Coast Water District's (SCWD) Doheny Ocean Desalination Project.

The Doheny Ocean Desalination Project is an essential alternative to shift Orange County's excessive dependence on imported water. Currently, south Orange County is approximately 90% dependent on imported water supplies from the severely stressed Colorado River and State Water Project. Given that climate change is expected to exacerbate drought effects in the State, it is crucial to enhance regional water supply reliability.

This project will allow SCWD to strengthen and diversify its water supply and management strategies. In addition, the project has taken crucial safety measures to be the first to comply with the California Ocean Plan, utilizing subsurface intakes and comingling brine discharge to minimize marine life impacts. SCWD has also effectively collaborated with key stakeholders such as California State Parks, nonprofit organizations, tribal nations and local representatives. The Doheny Ocean Desalination Project would undoubtedly improve water reliability for underserved residents throughout Orange County and the broader Southern California region.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my views. If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact John Watts in my Washington, DC office, at (202) 224-7261.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:nh/jw

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
http://feinstein.senate.gov

SOUTH COAST WATER DISTRICT (APPLICANT): Consider application for a General Lease – Public Agency Use, of sovereign land located in the Pacific Ocean, adjacent to Doheny State Beach, Orange County; to construct, operate, and maintain up to five subsurface slant wells, and operate and maintain one acoustic doppler current profiler. CEQA Consideration: categorical exemption for the acoustic doppler current profiler; for all other activities, Environmental Impact Report, certified by South Coast Water District, State Clearinghouse No. 2016031038, an Addendum, and adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring Program and Statement of Findings. (A3216; RA# 2021026) (A 73; S 36) (Staff: D. Simpkin)

Good morning, Commissioners and Staff –

I had planned on speaking today on item #71, but am unable to. This is what I had planned on sharing with you and trust that you can take this important water conservation issue into consideration during your deliberations. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Elia
Save Hobo Aliso Task Force
Sierra Club

The Sierra Club has consistently opposed the proposed Doheny desal project for many reasons, but this morning I am focusing on the one area that the staff report doesn't touch on and that's South Coast Water District's ongoing inability to comprehend the need for water conservation. Instead of developing water conservation programs, they have pushed for an unwanted and unneeded desal project.

The Sierra Club Water Committee has submitted a lengthy letter detailing South Coast Water District's allowance of water waste to both the Coastal Commission and your staff. We have included photos that show years of water waste with no attempt on the part of South Coast Water District management to develop programs to curb this water waste, including implementation of recycled water which is in great supply and regularly discharged to the ocean because it is simply not used.

In the case of the Coastal Commission, we have noted that South Coast Water District is once again applying for a Coastal Development Permit without any thought to water conservation. Next week, the Commission will hear an item involving a new sewer lift station. Within the development proposal, South Coast Water District has included, "the construction of a maintenance vehicle wash and storage garage."

In a telephone conversation with the district's project manager yesterday, she verified that potable water would be used to wash the district's fleet of maintenance vehicles citing that recycled water, which is at the ready in this location, would not be good for the vehicles. This represents thousands of gallons of potable water being sprayed on a fleet of trucks for goodness sakes. This same fleet of sparkling clean vehicles splash through runoff water in the streets of their district year after year, decade after decade without ever attempting to curtail this waste. These maintenance vehicles out on the streets of the district on a daily basis should be the eyes and ears of South Coast Water District. They should be part of the solution, not another way for the district to allow water waste.

We implore you to require South Coast Water District to implement strict water conservation policies for their ratepayers and themselves if in fact this desal project must be approved.

The Sierra Club continues to oppose all desal projects because we know the wasteful scenario that's occurring in this water district is occurring all over our state. Water districts don't profit from conservation, but rather by instilling fear into all of their ratepayers by wringing their hands and telling us that there just isn't enough potable water. Please, help stop this cycle of misinformation and potable water waste. Condition this permit with a strong water conservation requirement. Water districts cannot continue to be allowed to be a part of the problem. There are other solutions to our water crisis, and they are not all meant to make the water districts even more profitable. For once, let's allow our natural resources to profit by conservation and good stewardship.

Thank you.