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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE
METROPOLITAN WATER
DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(6/22/16) Public Hearing
Drinking Water Fee
Deadline: 6/22/16 by 5:00pm

June 21, 2016

Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: SWRCB Draft Drinking Water Fee Regulations

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) writes to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) draft Drinking Water Fee Regulations released for public comment on April 29, 2016 (Draft Fee Regulations). LVMWD is a public agency providing water service to the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and surrounding unincorporated areas of Western Los Angeles County, serving approximately 22,000 retail connections.

As a medium-sized agency, LVMWD recognizes the final Fee Regulations must ensure that the Drinking Water Program has adequate funding. However, LVMWD is concerned that the Draft Fee Regulations are not equitable. It does not seem appropriate for some agencies to see increases of five to ten times their current fees. Those costs must in turn be passed onto their customers, while customers of other agencies would likely pay lower costs for the same state service, particularly when the level of effort for the state to service those agencies is not commensurate.

LVMWD encourages the SWRCB to ensure the Drinking Water Program maintains its accountability to public water systems and the customers we serve. Toward that end, LVMWD expresses its support for the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) comments and suggested amendments to the Draft Fee Regulations, including the Water Community Option for the fee schedule.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District encourages the SWRCB to refine its efforts on this important issue with a balanced regulation that is equitable and sustainable for all agencies.

Sincerely,

David W. Pedersen, P.E.
General Manager

cc: ACWA