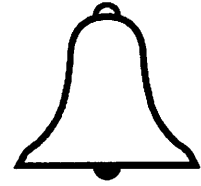


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Santa Margarita Water District

August 6, 2018

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
Attn: Ms. Jody Ebsen
2735 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108-2700

SUBJECT: 2018 Triennial Basin Draft Prioritized List
Triennial Review Comment: CW845836

Dear Ms. Ebsen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's (San Diego Water Board) *2018 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin, Draft Staff Report and Prioritized List*. Santa Margarita Water District (District) supports the draft prioritized list and Project 4: Climate Change Readiness: Sustainable Local Water Supply. The District agrees with the assessment that sustainable local water supplies are a key component to preparing the region for periods of drought and extreme weather brought on by climate change.

The District also acknowledges its responsibility in ensuring the San Diego Water Board has adequate resources to meet its ongoing obligations as well as advancing this project. We look forward to the partnership with South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA), our partner agencies and the San Diego County Water Authority to develop a collaborative approach with the San Diego Water Board to ensure it secures adequate funding to engage the staff resources necessary to move forward with Project 4.

The staff recommendation in Project 4 highlights the District's critical path to expansion of its recycled water system in support of the State Recycled Water Policy by considering modification of the Basin Plan. We are deeply interested in supporting Basin Plan modifications proposed under this project, for the development of local water supplies which would be sustainable during periods of drought brought on by climate change. The recommendation supports the District and its partner agencies in SOCWA implementation of the 2015 *Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the San Juan Basin*, which SOCWA and regional stakeholders developed pursuant to the Recycled Water Policy.

The SNMP also concluded, in part, the existing Basin Plan groundwater quality objectives within the Middle San Juan and Middle Trabuco basins are not reflective of the existing groundwater quality and the San Juan Basin Authority has developed monitoring data to document the groundwater quality. The recommendation expressed in Project 4 is the next step for the region and we are committed to developing technical information required to support the proposed Basin Plan modifications within the San Juan Basin in support of the San Diego Water Board's efforts.

The District agrees with the *Draft 2018 Triennial Review Prioritized List* conclusion that Project 4 is consistent with Chapters 1, 4, and 5 of the *San Diego Regional Water Board Practical Vision*. We also support SOCWA's assertion in its comment letter that Project 4 is also consistent with Chapter 2 (Monitoring and Assessment) of the Practical Vision. In support of the project, SOCWA member agencies and regional stakeholders have joined together to establish and fund a long-term comprehensive effort to monitor ground and surface water quality in the San Juan Basin. This comprehensive monitoring effort will substantially increase understanding of ground and surface water quality and conditions in the San Juan Basin. Additionally, the monitoring effort is consistent with the Regional Water Board's *A Framework for Monitoring within the San Diego Region*.

Please contact Don Bunts at (949) 459-6602 (donb@smwd.com) or me at (949) 459-6590 (danf@smwd.com) if you have any questions or comments. Thank you for the opportunity for input.

Very truly yours,
SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT



Daniel R. Ferons
General Manager

CC: Mr. David Gibson, SDRWQCB