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CA·NURSES
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BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ACTION PROJECT



WISHTOYO
CHUMASH FOUNDATION
FIRST NATIONS ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



IBEW & NECA
LOCAL 11 LOS ANGELES



YOSEMITE RIVERS ALLIANCE



CERF
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION

ORANGE COUNTY COASTKEEPER



PCL
Planning and Conservation League



SHALOM
INTERNATIONAL



Climate Resolve



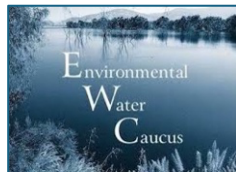
Social Eco Education



GOLDEN STATE SALMON ASSOCIATION



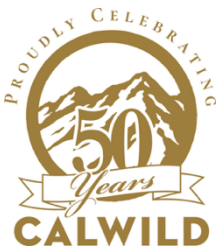
TreePeople



LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST



CLIMATE ACTION SANTA MONICA



TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Sperantia
Bringing hope

SAN FRANCISCO **BAYKEEPER**



FRIENDS OF BALLONA WETLANDS



CLEAN WATER ACTION



VENTURA COASTKEEPER



NATIVE AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY

CEH

Center for Environmental Health
For a safer, healthier future.



OUR WATER LA



March 3, 2026

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944
Attn: Chair Adán Ortega, Jr., General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh, MWD Board of Directors

Re: Support for Pure Water Southern California in the 2026-2028 Biennial Budget

Honorable Chair Ortega, General Manager Deshmukh, and Members of the Board,

The undersigned, who represent a diverse group of tribes, labor unions, and nonprofit and community-based organizations committed to advancing resilient, multi-benefit local water supplies for Southern California, are writing to express our support for including \$150M for Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) in MWD's 2026-2028 biennial budget. As demonstrated by the ongoing crisis on the Colorado River and increasingly volatile drought-to-drench weather whiplash, climate resilience and local water supplies are essential for Southern California's future. We are deeply appreciative of the Met staff who have worked on PWSC over the last decade and that the board approved a clean EIR certification last month.

Including PWSC in the budget is solely the next step in planning and design – not project approval – and preserves MWD's ability to make informed decisions as additional data becomes available. With imminent Colorado River cuts and highly unpredictable State Water Project allocations, continuing to advance PWSC provides a vital insurance policy for MWD against imported water unreliability. This approach is consistent with MWD's longstanding practice of incrementally advancing major infrastructure investments before final go/no-go decisions, which for PWSC would not occur until at least 2029. Budget inclusion also demonstrates good faith to funding partners – including LA County Sanitation Districts (\$1.4B for Phase 1), Southern Nevada Water Authority (\$6M for planning, \$750M additionally pledged), and Central Arizona Project (\$5M for planning) – while leveraging significant external funding. Of the \$150M requested, \$91.8M is already secured through state/federal grants, leaving \$58.2M for MWD – substantially less than the \$74.7M currently budgeted for 2027 Delta Conveyance Project planning costs.

Though we know PWSC is expensive, its unique benefits are unmatched as a significant drought-proof local supply that will provide regional storage, nutrient reductions in wastewater releases into the ocean, seismic resilience, and local job creation. In many ways, PWSC functions as a combined Delta Conveyance Project and Sites Reservoir – providing both increased supply reliability and critical storage capacity by facilitating recharge of currently underutilized basins. But the benefits provided by PWSC go even further, as the project creates **new** water rather than reallocating existing supplies that depend on erratic climate-driven hydrology, provides **local** economic/workforce development, and resides on the safe side of the San Andreas Fault.

As an investment in local water resilience, this project also eliminates the risk of becoming a stranded asset (unlike traditional conveyance and storage projects that rely on weather) and it also provides environmental justice benefits by avoiding the detrimental environmental, tribal, and community impacts that result from importing water. Unlike imported supplies – where MWD remains financially exposed to escalating climate risks such as subsidence in the Bay-Delta –

PWSC enables MWD to exercise complete **local control**, ensuring alignment of financial decisions with priorities and ratepayer interests while reducing external risk and improving long-term financial predictability. Additionally, the 75,000 **local** job-years (direct and indirect) created by PWSC for construction and operations and maintenance will come from agencies with established strong labor standards, including project labor agreements.

PWSC also presents a rare opportunity where there is near-universal support from a broad base of partners, including business, environmental and environmental justice, climate advocates, organized labor, tribes, communities, and water agencies throughout the region.

Thank you again for heralding this innovative wastewater recycling project. We urge you to continue to move this project forward to safeguard our water future and make the region more climate resilient. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or need additional information.

Kind regards,

Maura Monagan
Policy & Government Affairs Manager
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Dr. Zoe Cunliffe
Environmental Justice Program Manager
Black Women for Wellness Action Project

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla
Executive Director
Restore the Delta

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Director
Sierra Club California

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Founder & President
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Inland Empire Waterkeeper

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Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
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Chris Shutes
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California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Phillip Musegaas
Executive Director
San Diego Coastkeeper

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National Parks Conservation Association

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Betsy Reifsnider
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Mono Lake Committee

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CalWild

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Center For Biological Diversity

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Sustainable Claremont

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Chief and Spiritual Leader
Winnemem Wintu Tribe

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Deputy Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

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Executive Director
Climate Resolve

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Golden State Salmon Association

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California Coastal Protection Network

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Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation

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Clean Water Action

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Makeda Bullock Floyd
Program Lead
Climate Action Santa Monica

Robert T. Przeklasa
Executive Director
Native American Land Conservancy

Coalitions:

- Our Water Los Angeles (OWLA)
- Green LA Water Committee
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Desal Response Group
- Environmental Water Caucus