



IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

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December 22, 2016

Mr. Trevor Joseph
Supervising Engineering Geologist
SGM Section Chief
Department of Water Resources
901 P Street, Room 213-A
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Subject: Irvine Ranch Water District Support for the Submission of an Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Basin 8-1

Dear Mr. Joseph:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) allows local agencies to submit an Alternative to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 1, 2017. The purpose of an Alternative Plan is to show that an entire basin has been sustainably managed for at least 10 years while satisfying the objectives of SGMA. This letter provides the support of Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) for submission of an Alternative Plan for the Coastal Plain of Orange County Groundwater Basin (Basin 8-1). This groundwater basin has been established as a medium priority basin by California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Orange County Water District (OCWD) has been designated within SGMA as the exclusive local agency within the OCWD statutory boundaries to comply with SGMA for Basin 8-1. The OCWD boundaries cover a majority of, but not all of the area within Basin 8-1. In order for an Alternative Plan to be approved by DWR, the plan must demonstrate management of the entire designated basin.

Within Basin 8-1, there are a number of local agencies with boundaries that overlie areas that fall outside of OCWD. Small portions of IRWD, El Toro Water District and the City of Orange overlie an area southeast of OCWD's boundaries within Basin 8-1. These areas are referenced as the South East Management Area. IRWD has compiled the information required to demonstrate the sustainable management of the South East Management Area. This information was compiled in collaboration with OCWD, El Toro Water District and the City of Orange. On October 19, 2016, the groundwater management information for this area was reviewed with a Committee of IRWD's Board

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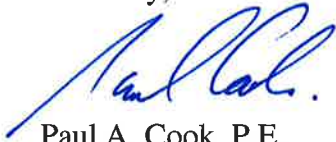
of Directors and was subsequently submitted to OCWD to be included in the Alternative Plan for Basin 8-1.

OCWD, in collaboration with other agencies, principally the City of La Habra for the La Habra/Brea Management Area and IRWD for the South East Management Area, prepared and compiled a comprehensive Alternative Plan that will facilitate and ensure sustainable management of the entirety of Basin 8-1. OCWD, the City of La Habra, and IRWD have agreed to jointly submit the prepared Alternative Plan for Basin 8-1 to DWR.

IRWD concurs with OCWD's determination that the submission of the Alternative Plan will not cause either a direct physical change or a reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is therefore not a "project" regulated by the California Environmental Quality Act.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (949) 453-5590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Cook", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul A. Cook, P.E.
General Manager

cc: Paul Weghorst, IRWD
Kellie Welch, IRWD
Ray Bennett, IRWD
Roy Herndon, OCWD
Adam Hutchinson, OCWD