

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Christopher Cooper, Director

Transportation
David Fleisch, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

Representing: Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1, 16, 17, 19, and 38
County Service Area Nos. 29, 30, and 34

November 8, 2019

Submitted via email: hr2w@oehha.ca.gov

Attn: Dr. Carolina Balazs
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
1515 Clay Street, 16th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE – Letter of Support for ACWA / CMUA Comment Letter on the OEHHA Human Right to Water Public Review Draft Mapping Tool and Draft Report

Dear Dr. Balazs:

The Ventura County Waterworks District (VCWWD) Nos. 1 (Moorpark), 17 (Bell Canyon), 19 (Somis), and 38 (Lake Sherwood) appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment on the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) Public Review Draft Report entitled, *Achieving the Human Right to Water in California: An Assessment of the State's Community Water Systems* and Draft Mapping Tool. My staff attended the October 17 workshop in Sacramento, which was valuable for learning more about the draft tool and its components.

By way of background, the VCWWD provides water to approximately 13,000 customers, servicing municipal, industrial and agricultural needs. We are responsible for the administration, operation, and maintenance of water, sewer, and recycled water utilities for VCWWDs and County Service Areas (CSAs).

VCWWD has worked closely with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) on this issue, and we agree with and echo the points raised in the detailed comment letter. We are concerned that the Draft Report and Draft Tool have not been sufficiently vetted by water agencies and other systems responsible for providing safe drinking water to the public. We echo ACWA and CMUA's call on OEHHA to, at a minimum, consider further engagement with the water community:

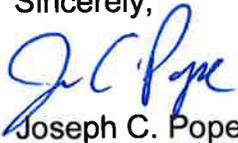
- Host a water community meeting to review and discuss the ACWA and CMUA comments prior to OEHHA finalizing the report and tool;
- Provide water systems with the raw data from the tool when requested;



- Develop and institute a process that allows water systems the ability to respectfully appeal data shown in the tool and contextualize it with more relevant accurate information; and
- Form an advisory group comprised of diverse water agencies, academia, community advocates and other interested stakeholders to serve in collaboration with OEHHA and provide an ongoing opportunity to discuss current indicators, future indicators, and versions of the tool.

We look forward to sharing with you our input, data and examples before finalizing the report and tool. I am available to answer any questions at (805) 378-3012.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Pope, Director
Water and Sanitation Department

cc: The Honorable Lauren Zeise, Ph.D., Director, OEHHA
Mr. Allan Hirsch, Chief Deputy Director, OEHHA
Mr. John Faust, Ph.D., Branch Chief of Community and Environmental
Epidemiology Research, OEHHA

