



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

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November 8, 2019

Submitted via email: hr2w@oehha.ca.gov

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

Dear Dr. Balazs:

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

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) appreciates 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* (Draft Report) and Draft Mapping Tool (Draft Tool).

We have worked closely with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and would like to provide strong support for their detailed comment letter. In particular, 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 have also identified data gaps in the Draft Tool which lacks readily available information to help explain these gaps to the user. For example, CVWD serves three public water systems (PWSs). The Draft Tool provides affordability for only two of these PWSs and only indicates "no data" for the largest PWS CVWD serves. CVWD found no explanation in the Draft Tool for this missing data.

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.

Please contact me at sbigley@cvwd.org or (760) 398-2661, extension 2286, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley
Director of Environmental Services

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