



Allen Carlisle, CEO/General Manager
Padre Dam Municipal Water District
9300 Fanita Parkway
Santee, CA 92071

March 17, 2022

Re: Support for Funding for the East County Advanced Water Purification Program

Dear Mr. Carlisle and AWP JPA,

I am writing to reiterate the Chamber's continued support of the East County Advanced Water Purification (East County AWP) program. Since our last official letter of support in October 2014, the East County AWP partner agencies have established the East County AWP Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in November 2019 and made impressive progress toward constructing the new facilities and infrastructure that are planned for completion in 2025 to provide over ten million gallons of purified water each day, equal to approximately 30 percent of East County's water supply.

Given that our East County San Diego region imports the majority of its drinking water supply, we have long touted the economic benefits of having a reliable source of water that is drought resistant and sustainable for industry and communities in all of our Chamber service areas – El Cajon, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Rancho San Diego, Santee and Jamul, as well as members throughout all of the East County Region and the County/City of San Diego. We also have working relationships with Chambers in the East County Region in Alpine, Borrego Springs, Julian, Lakeside, Ramona, La Mesa, Santee, Poway, Pine Valley, Spring Valley – and beyond.

As we have seen the state-of-the-art advanced water purification demonstration facility successfully complete review by the California Public Health Department and Independent Advisory Panel (IAP), we have updated our members on this progress to offer San Diego East County communities the opportunity to secure our future independence and control of over our own local water source. This program also eliminates the need to send most of the wastewater generated in East County to the City of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, where the majority of its wastewater is currently treated and then discharged into the ocean.

All businesses and homes have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that has seen global cost escalations and significant supply chain interruptions. The East County AWP program is no different, and because of these effects a funding gap has emerged. Our chamber supports the East County AWP JPA efforts to secure Federal and State funding to close this funding gap and complete the construction of this sustainable water supply, as well as minimize any increased costs from ratepayers and businesses already mitigating their on impacts from the pandemic.

The San Diego Regional East County Chamber of Commerce endorses the East County AWP program and construction of this vital facility, as the respected voice of and advocate for improving business opportunities, public policy and business resources throughout San Diego County. By reducing our dependence on water transported hundreds of miles to reach our community, we will diversify our water supplies, reduce the impact of future price increases on imported water and replace antiquated, costly sewage processing systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Wilson".

Rick Wilson, MBA
President & CEO

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