



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

March 23, 2022

East County Advanced Water Purification JPA
c/o Allen Carlisle, Padre Dam MWD CEO/General Manager
9300 Fanita Parkway
Santee, CA 92071

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

Dear Allen and East County AWP JPA Members,

As a partner with Padre Dam Municipal Water District (Padre Dam), the County of San Diego and Helix Municipal Water District, the City of El Cajon has been pleased to see the implementation progress made toward construction of the full-scale East County Advanced Water Purification (East County AWP) facility that will use state-of-the-art technology to meet up to 30% of East County's current drinking water demands.

On behalf of the El Cajon City Council, we commend the JPA for the hundreds of millions of dollars that have already been secured in grant funding, incentives and low-interest loan financing to construct this vital facility and collaboratively protect, preserve, recycle and reuse one of our most precious resources: water.

We support the JPA's efforts to secure Federal and/or State monies to help close the funding gap developed during the pandemic due to global cost escalations and supply chain effects. While our community needs this program to secure a sustainable water supply, this necessary funding also helps to divert the impact of increased costs from ratepayers.

In addition to broad community and economic sector support, the East County AWP program received analysis from an Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) that provided a thorough examination of the proposed water purification. This panel of independent experts helped to ensure that all important program components are thoroughly reviewed and analyzed. Data collected from the successful AWP demonstration facility produced water which helped the full scale East County AWP program earn approval from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water.

The AWP program was awarded as "Recycled Water Agency of the Year" by WateReuse California at their annual conference in March 2017 and since then more than 18 additional industry awards have been earned by this program, including Public Outreach Program of the Year. Expanded use of this award-winning program management and technology will create a new, safe and reliable source of water that will supplement water resources for the San Diego County region and specifically East County and El Cajon community.

We look forward to continuing to work together to deliver to our communities a clean, safe, independent and environmentally sound source of drinking water to help protect and improve the vitality of our homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, public safety services, recreation areas, established and growing industries for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bill Wells
Mayor
City of El Cajon