

April 12, 2020

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

via email through Gabriela Dow, NV5

Re: Support for the East County Advanced Water Purification Project

Dear Mr. Carlisle and East County AWP JPA Members,

The San Diego Audubon Society advocates for the protection and appreciation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. As a result, we greatly appreciate the JPA's project for the potable reuse of 11.5 MGD of local wastewater. Potable reuse is the most environmentally benign source of water that is available to satisfy our region's drought security needs. Some of those environmental benefits will be:

It will provide a major level of water security without the construction more reservoirs and their negative habitat and watershed impacts.

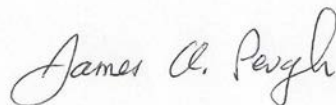
It will tend to minimize the need to pump water from distant sources, like the Colorado River and Sacramento Valley, and the associated energy use and related GHG discharge and the negative habitat impacts to those source watersheds.

It will reduce the pressure for our region to depend on ocean desalination and its damage to ocean fisheries and water quality and its high energy use and therefore GHG discharge.

It will reduce the amount of wastewater that must be discharged into our coastal waters from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plan.

From a civic point of view the project will allow local control of this water and it will probably have an ever increasing cost advantage over imported water.

We understand that the regulatory process may not be as easy as it should. We applaud that the JPA understands the long-term benefits and is willing to make that effort and investment. In case of questions or follow-up, contact the undersigned at peugh@cox.net or 619-224-4591.



James A. Peugh
Conservation Chair
San Diego Audubon Society