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SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION

March 25, 2024

MEMBERS*Cities:*

Alhambra	La Verne
Arcadia	Monrovia
Azusa	Monterey Park
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El Monte	Rosemead
Glendora	Sierra Madre
Irwindale	South Pasadena
Industry	Whittier

Public Water Districts:

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 La Puente Valley County Water District
 Rowland WD
 San Gabriel CWD
 San Gabriel Valley MWD
 Three Valleys MWD
 Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD
 Valley CWD
 Walnut Valley WD

Public Utilities:

Azusa Valley Water Co.
 California American Water Co.
 Golden State Water Co.
 San Gabriel Valley Water Co.
 Suburban Water Systems

Mutual Water Companies:

Amarillo Mutual Water Co.
 California Domestic Water Co.
 Covina Irrigating Co.
 Hemlock Mutual Water Co.
 Sterling Mutual Water Co.
 Sunny Slope Water Co.
 Valencia Heights Water Co.
 Valley View Mutual Water Co.

Private & Industrial Producers:

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 Los Angeles County
 Sonoco Products Co.
 United Rock Products Corp.
 Vulcan Materials Co.
 Workman Mill Investment Co.

Consultants/Others:

The B.E.S.T. Meter Co., Inc.
 CalMutuals
 Civiltec Engineering, Inc.
 Integrated Resources Management, Inc.
 John Robinson Consulting Inc.
 Los Angeles County of Public Works
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The Honorable Grace Napolitano
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1610 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: FY25 Appropriations Request for the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

We are writing to request \$10 million from the FY25 Energy & Water appropriations bill for the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) to continue its long-standing effort to clean up contaminated groundwater in and around the San Gabriel Valley, including Alhambra, Irwindale, La Puente, Rosemead, Azusa, Baldwin Park, City of Industry, El Monte, South El Monte, West Covina and other areas of the San Gabriel Valley

In 1979, following several decades of defense contractor work, groundwater contamination was detected in the San Gabriel Valley. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency subsequently designated major portions of the region's groundwater as Superfund sites and identified Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). Those PRPs continue to pay a large share of remediation and operating costs, but there are some sites where no responsible party can be found or are no longer viable.

As part of the effort to clean up this groundwater contamination and prevent it from spreading into the adjacent Central Basin, the WQA was created by the State of California. In 2001, Congress established the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund (Fund) (P.L. 106-554). This interest-bearing account was established to reimburse the WQA and the Central Basin Municipal Water District for design, construction and ongoing treatment and remediation costs required to facilitate groundwater cleanup efforts in the San Gabriel Valley.

The FY25 funds will be used to continue cleanup activities underway and to address clean-up of orphan sites and non "Record of Decision" projects where there is no responsible party identified or where the responsible party does not have the resources to do the work. This funding will be matched with state and local funding to maximize

The Honorable Grace Napolitano

March 25, 2024

Page 2

existing groundwater treatment projects and to address site clean-up efforts preventing contaminants from reaching the groundwater, in addition to the required Federal matching requirement identified in the statute.

To date:

- The Fund has received \$107,009,000 of the \$135,000,000 authorized in the 2001 law.
- There are currently 33 active groundwater cleanup projects in the Basin that use the latest best available technologies to remove contaminants, including ion exchange, carbon adsorption, advanced oxidation via ultra-violet light, air stripping and reverse osmosis, to pump, treat and serve the water to the public.
- If the San Gabriel Basin was forced to import all of water that was treated in the FY22/23 water year - 77,960 acre-feet - the cost could have been over \$104,000,000.
- Over 107 tons of contaminants have been removed by WQA-sponsored projects and has treated over 2,000,000 acre-feet of groundwater.
- To date, the State of California has provided \$48,000,000 through various programs to supplement and match the federal effort.
- WQA has allocated and plans to allocate the funds received in FY22 - FY24 to offset the costs associated with the construction of five new Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) treatment facilities. The new treatment facilities are located in the cities of El Monte and Baldwin Park. Total capital estimate of the new treatment facilities is \$63,000,000. Affected water purveyors will fund the remaining balance.

As you know, the San Gabriel Basin provides 90% of the drinking water supply for over 1.4 million residents. Some of the contaminants removed include perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, perchlorate, n-nitrosodimethylamine, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, Chromium VI, 1,4 dioxane and Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances. Without this funding, water rates — primarily in disadvantaged communities — are likely to increase substantially, and the San Gabriel Valley will have to increase its reliance on water imported from Northern California.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to call on us if you have any questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



President, Board of Directors
San Gabriel Valley Water Association