



Paragon Triangle
Water Supply

Olive Dell Ranch



March 22, 2021

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair

Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, California 95814

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair

Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Bob Wieckowski, Chair

Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
State Capitol, Room 4085

Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Chair

Budget Subcommittee 3
State Capitol, Room 2003

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR PFAS GRANT PROGRAM FOR WATER SYSTEMS SERVING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES (C. GARCIA)

The group of undersigned water suppliers from diverse parts of California, express our support for a budget request by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia to create a grant program to help off-set the treatment costs for PFOS and PFOA contamination for water systems serving

underserved communities. Our group is composed of water suppliers statewide with PFOS and PFOA contamination issues that would benefit from the proposed funding. Special districts, community service districts, mutual water companies and municipal utilities could all benefit from Asm. Garcia's \$100 million grant program and we support the effort to boost the capacities of smaller water systems' abilities to provide safe and affordable drinking water.

In October 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board found evidence through water source sampling that roughly 300 California water sources exceed protective response levels (RLs) for PFOS or PFOA. The treatment remedy for many water systems, especially those serving disadvantaged communities, is beyond our means.

The ability of regional water authorities to help small water systems with the cost of PFOS and PFOA is not equitable across California. For example, the Orange County Water District (OCWD) is paying for the full construction cost of treatment systems while in South Los Angeles County, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California only has sufficient funding to off-set half the capital cost of building treatment systems for a number of largely disadvantaged communities. A grant program would resolve some of this inequity as many of the disadvantaged community systems have a limited capacity to raise water rates, especially given COVID related hardships including unpaid billings. Water systems stretching from Bakersfield through the Central Valley to Sacramento are similarly impacted. The Central Coast, and utilities along the corridor from Sacramento to Redding are also zones of major impact.

We applaud the legislature's allocation of \$130M per year of the SAFER program to help struggling small systems, but an additional fund dedicated to PFOS/PFOA compounds is needed, as the treatment costs were not anticipated when the SAFER program was created. Similarly, as the best available technologies for treatment improve on this class of chemicals, regulatory standards will decrease the acceptable levels of PFOS and PFOA, further straining the technical and financial capacities of smaller systems serving disadvantaged populations. Additionally, further research and analysis will continue to increase the number of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl compounds that water systems must monitor and remediate.

We respectfully urge you to support state funding dedicated to PFAS remediation for smaller, poorer, and older communities throughout the state. California's Human Right to Water demands that we equalize the resources across the state as much as possible, to treat this long-term public health threat. All communities deserve safe drinking water.

Sincerely,

Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company, Bellflower CA
Steve Lenton, General Manager

Montebello Land & Water Company, Montebello CA
Korey Bradbury, General Manager

Pico Water District, Pico Rivera, CA
Mark Grajeda, General Manager

Oildale Mutual Water Company, Oildale, CA
Doug Nunneley, General Manager

Paragon Triangle Water Supply, San Luis Obispo, CA
Alan McVay, District Manager

California Domestic Water Company, Whittier, CA
Lynda Noriega, President

Olive Dell Ranch, Colton, CA
Robert Kilborn, Owner

Rubidoux Community Services District, Rubidoux, CA
Jeff Sims, General Manager