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Midway City Sanitary District

> Irvine Ranch Water District

Yorba Linda Water District



April 27, 2020

The Honorable Congressman Cisneros U.S. House of Representatives 431 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cisneros:

Recently, the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) wrote to request that the next phase of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) economic and health response legislation include language to support explicitly the needs of Special Districts like OCSD that provide critical health services to the public. We were surprised and deeply disappointed that the legislative agreement, pending before the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, which is expected to pass by the end of this week, fails to address any of the issues that we and our fellow public agencies have communicated to your office.

Congress had an opportunity as part of the pending relief package to provide OCSD and other Special Districts that deliver critical services with much needed support as was previously extended to larger municipal and county governments in prior assistance packages. OCSD's economic and public health needs are as important as other governmental organizations. Many of our ratepayers have been hit hard by this pandemic. As an essential service, it is not only our job it is our duty to continue to protect public health and the environment. We request immediate action to ensure that the following needs, presented below, are addressed as part of the next COVID-19 assistance response.

During this unprecedented time, we ask that the next COVID-19 package of assistance provide for the following:

- Equal Tax Treatment: The CARES Act provided the private sector with payroll tax credits to help offset the costs of mandatory paid sick, family and medical leave. This tax credit was denied to the public sector, even though OCSD is also liable for such payroll taxes. We urge that the prohibition on providing tax credits to public agencies, contained in the CARES Act, be repealed as part of this next phase of assistance.
- Special District Eligibility for Direct Assistance: The CARES Act provided direct assistance to state and units of local government. However, this eligibility has been interpreted not to include Special Districts. As a result, financial assistance under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund) is unavailable to OCSD, denying funding to critical infrastructure. OCSD requests that you work to clarify the definition of local government to specifically include political subdivisions of a state, thereby capturing Special Districts. This is vital to allow for consideration of federal assistance that can help OCSD meet its mission to protect human health.



Page Two

OCSD deeply appreciates the unwavering support you have provided to our past efforts to provide for an improved quality of life for the citizens of Orange County. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, OCSD's Administration Manager at (714) 593-7581 or via email at jcabral@ocsd.com should you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Orange County Sanitation District.

Sincerely,

David John Shawver Board Chairman

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Yorba Linda Water District

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Congressman Correa U.S. House of Representatives 1039 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Correa:

As Congress develops the next legislative package of economic stabilization to respond to the threats from the Coronavirus, it is vital that any package include technical corrections to the CARES Act to assist with potential economic impacts from the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As a designated essential service, the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) is seeking that you work to include a number of provisions to help us weather the COVID-19 pandemic. Our requests are grounded in the principle that the public wastewater sector provides critical health services that support stable economies and a healthy citizenry. OCSD specifically seeks that the following issues be addressed in the next phase of Coronavirus legislation:

- **Equal Tax Treatment:** The CARES Act provided the private sector with payroll tax credits to help offset the costs of mandatory paid sick, family and medical leave. This tax credit was denied to the public sector, even though OCSD is also liable for such payroll taxes. We urge that the prohibition on providing tax credits to public agencies, contained in the CARES Act, be repealed as part of this next phase of assistance.
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OCSD also wishes to take this opportunity to call for a robust federal commitment to water infrastructure. For many years, we have called on Congress and the Administration to support federal assistance to help rebuild our nation's clean water infrastructure. We understand that consideration is underway to develop infrastructure legislation that can support recovery from COVID-19.



In the past, the clean water community has repeatedly demonstrated the value and return on investment that infrastructure dollars dedicated to the clean water sector can provide. We will be reaching out to you and your staff in the near future to provide a list of projects we have planned that could greatly contribute to an economic recovery in Orange County.

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Midway City Sanitary District

> Irvine Ranch Water District

Yorba Linda Water District

Water District

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Senator Feinstein 331 Hart Senator Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As Congress develops the next legislative package of economic stabilization to respond to the threats from the Coronavirus, it is vital that any package include technical corrections to the CARES Act to assist with potential economic impacts from the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

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Costa Mesa Sanitary District

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> Irvine Ranch Water District

Yorba Linda Water District April 20, 2020

The Honorable Senator Harris 112 Hart Senator Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

As Congress develops the next legislative package of economic stabilization to respond to the threats from the Coronavirus, it is vital that any package include technical corrections to the CARES Act to assist with potential economic impacts from the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

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April 20, 2020

The Honorable Congressman Lowenthal U.S. House of Representatives 125 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lowenthal:

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As a designated essential service, the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) is seeking that you work to include a number of provisions to help us weather the COVID-19 pandemic. Our requests are grounded in the principle that the public wastewater sector provides critical health services that support stable economies and a healthy citizenry. OCSD specifically seeks that the following issues be addressed in the next phase of Coronavirus legislation:

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Yorba Linda Water District

SANITATION

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Congresswoman Katie Porter U.S. House of Representatives 1117 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Porter:

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Yorba Linda Water District The Honorable Congressman Rouda U.S. House of Representatives 2300 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Rouda:

April 20, 2020

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April 20, 2020

The Honorable Congresswoman Sanchez U.S. House of Representatives 2329 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Sanchez:

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