



## SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

505 GARRETT AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 2328  
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91912-2328  
(619) 420-1413  
FAX (619) 425-7469  
www.sweetwater.org

GOVERNING BOARD  
STEVE CASTANEDA, CHAIR  
HECTOR MARTINEZ, VICE CHAIR  
JOSIE CALDERON-SCOTT  
JERRY CANO  
JOSÉ F. CERDA  
JOSE PRECIADO  
ALEJANDRA SOTELO-SOLIS

TISH BERGE  
GENERAL MANAGER

JENNIFER H. SABINE  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

September 16, 2020

Keene Simonds, Executive Director  
San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission  
9335 Hazard Way, Ste. 200  
San Diego, CA 92123

### **Subject: Comments - Fallbrook PUD / Rainbow MWD Detachment Proposal**

Dear Mr. Simonds:

Sweetwater Authority would like to provide comments for your consideration on the Proposed Fallbrook/Rainbow Detachment from the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA).

As a member agency of the SDCWA, Sweetwater Authority (Sweetwater) is concerned about the impact the proposed Detachment will have on its ratepayers. Based upon information provided by the SDCWA, the detachment could cost Sweetwater rate-payers approximately \$250,000 annually (2020 dollars). When we consider the impact of the Detachment, along with the anticipated impacts of the water demand roll-off from the SDCWA associated with impending local project development (Pure Water San Diego and East County), we have a concern about the long-term viability of the SDCWA and its retail member agencies including Sweetwater.

Focusing on the current issue before LAFCO, we acknowledge that the proposed Fallbrook/Rainbow Detachment is unusual, complicated and contentious. As you progress through this very complex issue, we echo sentiments expressed by other retail water agencies that LAFCO focus on Fallbrook's and Rainbow's appropriate and legally-based one-time exit fee and/or ongoing financial contributions to the SDCWA and its member agencies. We would also encourage all four parties; Fallbrook PUD, Rainbow MWD, SDCWA and LAFCO, to work cooperatively to resolve the various issues driving the move for the Detachment, or at least minimize the conflict and public expense in determining the appropriate terms and other conditions for the Detachment.

We understand and support the process being undertaken by LAFCO and appreciate your careful consideration of all viewpoints and impacts. If detachment is ultimately approved, we believe that the fiscal transition should be phased in over a period of years. In this way, the financial impacts of detachment can be attenuated for all parties as is now done to offset the fiscal impact of member agency roll-off, albeit for a limited



Mr. Simonds

Re: Comments - Fallbrook PUD / Rainbow MWD Detachment Proposal

September 16, 2020

Page 2 of 2

period of time, through provisions in the SDCWA rate structure.

If you should have any questions about our comments, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Sabine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Sabine  
Assistant General Manager

cc: Sandy Kerl, General Manager, SDCWA