



VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

A Public Agency Organized July 12, 1954

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April 5, 2021

Ms. Sandra Kerl, General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Road
San Diego, CA 92123-1233

Subject: *Your Letter of April 1, 2021 to Adam Wilson, SD LAFCO*

Dear Ms. Kerl;

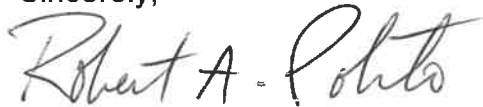
In your April 1, 2021 letter to Mr. Adam Wilson (*copy attached*) regarding the proposed Fallbrook and Rainbow detachments, you quoted Enrico Ferro, Valley Center Municipal Water District's Vice President, as saying, "I applaud Fallbrook and Rainbow for doing this. I say to myself why aren't more agencies doing this." What you failed to mention in your letter was that Vice President Ferro first qualified his comments as being his personal point of view and not the point of view of the Valley Center Municipal Water District or its Board of Directors.

As a fellow farmer, I fully understand the personal frustration Mr. Ferro feels in trying to farm in San Diego County. While the PSAWR discount is critical and much appreciated; there is still constant upward pressure on water rates, along with all the other costs incurred on a daily basis. Also, he, as well as other members of our Board, are greatly concerned for the long-term financial viability of the SDCWA and its member agencies. These concerns are founded on the general drop in water demand, rapid development of local supply projects, and the mounting financial burden of maintaining an aging aqueduct system. This concern was recently amplified by the SDCWA doggedly moving forward on the RCS Phase 2 study for a project which is clearly unnecessary, not cost-effective and adds no water supply or reliability benefit to the region. Amazingly, Phase 2 of the study is underway, despite the fact that a clear majority of the SDCWA Board of Directors voted against doing so (20 against with 15 for); the measure only passing by .83% of weighted vote, buoyed only by a split vote—six for with four against—with the San Diego Delegation controlling 39% of the weighted vote.

All that said, let me now be very clear: As I have confirmed with people present in the meeting, Mr. Ferro stated, in the March 16, 2021 Farm Bureau Water Committee Meeting, that he was speaking for himself as an individual farmer and rate payer, not for the Farm Bureau or Board or the Valley Center Municipal Water District Board of Directors. It would have been appreciated if you had taken the time to confirm this contextual fact and so stated it in your letter, prior to using the quote in your letter to Mr. Wilson. This is the second time in recent communications with LAFCO that the SDCWA has implied, without any factual basis, that our agency might attempt to detach from the SDCWA.

So, for the record, the Valley Center Municipal Water District has never planned, studied the feasibility, or even contemplated detaching from the SDCWA, even though we have been encouraged by our growers to seek lower cost water are as Fallbrook and Rainbow. Whoever Director Ferro may have been referring to when he was paraphrased by you, "he believes other agencies are going to seek detachment," it is not Valley Center. Finally, when it comes to VCMWD, we would much appreciate that the SDCWA deal in facts, not supposition and speculation.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Polito

President, Board of Directors

Valley Center Municipal Water District

Cc: SDCWA Board of Directors

VCMWD Board of Directors

Keene Simmonds, San Diego LAFCO

Adam Wilson, San Diego LAFCO (adwilson858@yahoo.com)

SDCWA Member Agency General Managers

Paula De Souza, General Counsel, VCMWD