



May 3, 2022

Keene Simonds, Executive Officer  
San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission  
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725  
San Diego, CA 92103

**Subject: LAFCO Consideration of Potential Detachment and Annexation Concerning Rainbow and Fallbrook Municipal Water Districts**

Dear Mr. Simonds:

The Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) is in receipt of the April 27, 2022 letter sent to you by the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) concerning the above-referenced matter. As you know, EMWD did not initiate the potential detachment/annexation process that is currently under review. EMWD was approached by Rainbow Municipal Water District (Rainbow) and Fallbrook Public Utility District (Fallbrook), who expressed concern about the high cost of water resulting from a variety of decisions made by the SDCWA board. From the beginning of this process EMWD has maintained a neutral role in trying to assist your office and its decision-making process.

Thus, it was disappointing and surprising to see SDCWA raising untrue and inflammatory accusations about one of EMWD's board members. We have no idea why SDCWA has chosen to distract the commission from the issues relevant to this inquiry but feel compelled to address SDCWA's scurrilous comments.

Director Record's role, in requesting an investigation of the improper disclosure of confidential information by member agency representatives, has no bearing on whether Rainbow and Fallbrook should be in EMWD's or SDCWA's service area. Furthermore, SDCWA's contention that Director Record attempted to influence the investigation is simply untrue. As Chair of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Board, he had an obligation to all involved to ensure that a thorough investigation was conducted. To suggest otherwise is deliberately misleading.

Board of Directors

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Mr. Keene Simonds

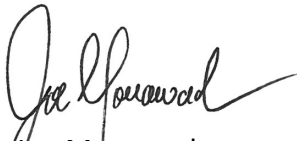
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For reasons we do not understand, SDCWA has chosen to portray itself as the victim of some organized conspiracy to undercut its position in this matter. A review of EMWD's voting record at Metropolitan reveals EMWD has consistently supported SDCWA's programs, including its "Pure Water" program, which is the largest local agency project ever supported by Metropolitan.

EMWD urges LAFCO to focus on the task at hand- whether the proposed detachment/annexation is in the best interests of the rate payers of Rainbow, Fallbrook, and SDCWA. Attempting to re-litigate long resolved matters in no way furthers the process.

Sincerely,



Joe Mouawad  
General Manager



Steven P. O'Neill  
EMWD General Counsel

c: Holly Whatley, LAFCO General Counsel  
Adam Wilson, Ad Hoc Committee Moderator  
All LAFCO Commissioners  
Sandra L. Kerl, General Manager, San Diego County Water Authority  
Claire Collins, Counsel, San Diego County Water Authority  
Jack Bebee, General Manager, Fallbrook PUD  
Paula C. P. de Sousa, Counsel, Fallbrook PUD  
Nick Kanetis, Deputy General Manager, EMWD  
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