



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA
MAYOR

May 22, 2023

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

RE: OPPOSE -- Proposed Reorganizations of Fallbrook Public Utilities District and Rainbow Municipal Water District

Dear Honorable Members of the San Diego County LAFCO Commission:

On behalf of the City of San Diego, I write to reaffirm the City of San Diego's continued opposition to the proposed reorganization of the Fallbrook Public Utilities District (FPUD) and Rainbow Municipal Water District (RMWD).

Since March of 2020, the City of San Diego has monitored and been engaged in San Diego County LAFCO's review of the proposals from FPUD and RMWD to detach from the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority). The City has been part of the Ad-Hoc Committee and reviewed the correspondence and reports associated with the Ad-Hoc Committee's work. This includes the Hanemann report and municipal service reviews of FPUD, RMWD, and Eastern Municipal Water District. The City has also met with FPUD and RMWD as well as the Water Authority at various points throughout the LAFCO review process.

While the City acknowledges the spirit and point that FPUD and RMWD are attempting to make with their proposed detachment, we believe it is the wrong answer to the challenges represented by both agencies. Further, the proposed action will have significant, long-term economic and political impacts to the vast majority of households in San Diego County.

Should the proposed detachment of FPUD and RMWD be approved:

1. **Nearly every household in San Diego County will see an increase in their water rates.** For residents of the City of San Diego, this would equate to an increase of *approximately* \$1.00-2.00 per month, per household. For the

residents of Valley Center, this would equate to an increase of *approximately* \$3.00 per month, per household. For the residents of Pauma Valley, served by the Yuima Municipal Water District, this would equate to an increase of *approximately* \$18.71 per month, per household. With the cost of living increasing for individuals and families in nearly every metric, none of these proposed rate increases are acceptable.

2. **San Diego County will lose voting rights at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET).** San Diego County would effectively cede this voting power to Riverside County, which would diminish our voice at Metropolitan. Given the history between San Diego County Water Authority and MET and the fact that MET also represents the interests of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Riverside Counties, it is not prudent or wise for us to cede any portion of our voting rights to any other entity as our ratepayers could bear the brunt.
3. **The voters of our region will not have a say.** Despite the long-term economic and political implications of this government reorganization, LAFCO staff has unilaterally determined that a vote of all impacted San Diego County residents is not necessary nor required. LAFCO staff and the Commission have the discretion to recommend a countywide vote, which would be in parity with other jurisdictional boundary changes LAFCO considers. We believe all registered voters in the County of San Diego who will be impacted deserve the right to vote on this matter.

Again, while the City respects the spirit and perspective in which both FPUD and RMWD seek to detach from the Water Authority, we remain opposed to their detachment. Given the significant ramifications the proposed action would have for the vast majority of ratepayers in our region, the City respectfully requests that the LAFCO Commission reject staff recommendation and disapprove both proposals.

Sincerely,



TODD GLORIA

Mayor

City of San Diego