



March 28, 2022

The Hon. Donna Brownsey  
Chair, California Coastal Commission  
455 Market Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Re: *Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Facility – APPROVE CDP***

Dear Chair Brownsey:

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) has long supported the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Plant. Orange County has a proud reputation as a regional leader when it comes to water use efficiency and water reuse and recycling. Our Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) is world renown for being the most technologically advanced Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) project on earth.

Yet even with GWRS and our reduction in water use, Orange County still imports about half of its drinking water from Northern California and the Colorado River. This supply of imported water is reliant on rainfall and snowpack, which can vary wildly from year to year. Additionally, a natural disaster such as an earthquake can cut this supply off for months or even years. And our growing populations in other western states further strains the Colorado River water supply.

Orange County is proud of its ability to build its infrastructure independent of outside support. Whether it's our Toll Roads, our Measure M transportation improvement sales tax or the Orange County Water District's (OCWD) GWRS, developing our own infrastructure to support our growing residential communities and businesses is a hallmark of Orange County.

The Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Plant is the single largest source of new drought-proof water supply for our county. This project is identified in both the Municipal Water District of Orange County's Urban Water Management Plan and the Orange County Water District's Groundwater Management Plan as a planned future water supply.

This project will reduce Orange County's reliance on imported water and has the support of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

ACC-OC encourages the California Coastal Commission to approve the Coastal Development Permit. This project complies with every part of the Ocean Plan and will



establish a locally-controlled, climate-resilient water supply for years to come. I ask that you vote to approve the Coastal Development Permit to create regional solutions for water supply.

Sincerely,

Barbara Delgleize  
President  
Association of California Cities – Orange County

cc:

Vice Chair Dr. Caryl Hart  
Commissioner Danya Bochco  
Commissioner Effie Turnbull-Sanders  
Commissioner Sara Aminzadeh  
Commissioner Steve Padilla  
Commissioner Mike Wilson  
Commissioner Catherine Rice  
Commissioner Linda Escalante  
Commissioner Megan Harman  
Commissioner Roberto Uranga  
Commissioner Carole Groom  
Mr. Jack Ainsworth, Executive Director  
ACC-OC Board of Directors