

August 14, 2024

J. M. Barrett General Manager Coachella Valley Water District P.O. Box 1058 Coachella, CA 92236 jbarrett@cvwd.org

Subject: Letter of Support for Coachella Valley Water District's WRP-7 Existing Tertiary Treatment System and MP 113.2 Canal Pump Station Improvements Project and its Funding Application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART: Title XVI Water WIIN Act Reclamation and Reuse Projects for FY 2024, NOFO No. R23AS00464

Dear Mr. Barrett:

This letter is in support of the Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) proposed WRP-7 Tertiary Treatment System and the MP 113.2 Canal Distribution System Improvements Project (Project).

The Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) includes Coachella Water Authority (CWA), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), Indio Water Authority (IWA), Mission Springs Water District (MSWD), and Valley Sanitary District (VSD). The group represents a collaborative effort to implement the Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (CVIRWM) Plan to address the water resources planning needs of the Coachella Valley. The CVRWMG's Region is located in central Riverside County, within the Colorado River Funding Area.

The Title XVI WIIN Program Funding Feasibility Study recently prepared for the Project (updated May 2024) analyzes the viability to expand WRP-7's current tertiary treatment capacity to meet the significant growth anticipated. Projections show that influent flows will reach 5.2 million gallons per day (MGD) by 2030 and 6.2 MGD by 2040. The Project will increase capacity from 2.5

MGD to 5.5 MGD to align with the existing secondary treatment capacity of 5.5 MGD exceeding the anticipated 5.2 MGD peak demand by 2030 to recycle 100 percent of the plant influent.

Since groundwater is the principal source of municipal water supply in the Coachella Valley, the Project supports reduced demand for potable water and will enhance local water supply reliability by helping to mitigate overdraft in the Indio Subbasin. Therefore, I support the objective of the WRP-7 Project to generate 3,360 acre-feet per year (AFY) of new Title 22 standard recycled water replacing groundwater and imported water currently used by nine major irrigation and golf course customers in the CVWD service area to meet regional demand for recycled water.

The Project is also shown to be cost effective with an equivalent uniform annual cost of \$310 per AFY - about four times more cost effective than building a new recycled water treatment plant.

Finally, the Project supports the water supply reliability goals of the Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan, Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan, CVWD's Non-Potable Water Master Plan Update, CVWD's Sanitation Master Plan Update.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding our support of this project, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at SJohnson@dwa.org or via telephone at (760) 323-4971 ext. 140.

Sincerely,

Steve Johnson, P.E.

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group

General Manager

Desert Water Agency

CVRWMG agency representatives:

Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, Coachella Valley Water District Ron Buchwald, Valley Sanitary District Castulo Estrada, Coachella Water Authority Reymundo Trejo, Indio Water Authority Marion Champion, Mission Springs Water District