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CITY OF SANTA MARIA  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

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October 1, 2013

Honorable Chairman Salud Carbajal  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**SUBJECT: STATE WATER PRIMARY WATER SUPPLY  
FOR CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Chairman Carbajal,

The City of Santa Maria ("City") appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors ("Board") in reference to the item before the Board pertaining to State Water.

State Water Project ("SWP") water is the primary water source for the City. Prior to SWP water importation, the City's primary source for domestic water supply was the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. This local groundwater has a high hardness and mineral content. Since SWP water importation to the Central Coast began in 1997, the City has acquired over 80 percent of its supply (in excess of 11,000 acre-feet annually) from SWP water. After this water is utilized for domestic supply, it is then used to restore groundwater supplies in the Santa Maria Valley.

SWP water is higher quality water than native groundwater. SWP water requires less softening and results in a diminished amount of salt being introduced into the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. SWP water is also much lower in Total Dissolved Solids ("TDS"). When this water is percolated into the groundwater basin, it helps reduce TDS in the native groundwater, and improves the basin's overall water quality.

The health of the basin in the Santa Maria Valley is essential to the economic vitality of the Santa Maria Valley. SWP water is an essential and critical component in maintaining the health of the groundwater basin, and for these reasons, we urge you to support the SWP contract extension. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Alice M. Patino'.

**ALICE M. PATINO**  
Mayor of Santa Maria

RECEIVED

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