

City of Santa Barbara

Public Works Department

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

January 26, 2021

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Honorable Gregg Hart, Chair and Member of the Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara

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Water Resources

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Dear Chair Hart and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing regarding the State Water Project Contract Amendments that the County Board of Supervisors will be considering at their regular meeting on February 2, 2021. I urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to authorize the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) to execute both Amendment No. 20 and Amendment No. 21, without conditions; specifically, without the conditions proposed by District staff in their January 26, 2021 letter to the BOS.

Subject: Santa Barbara Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Proposed

Conditions to Amendment Nos. 20 and 21 of the State Water Contract

The District's proposed conditions would jeopardize CCWA members' access to the operational and financial benefits of Amendments Nos. 20 and 21, and potentially to State Water itself; complicate water transfers/exchanges; and irreparably harm and damage CCWA and its participants. Additionally, the conditions would relinquish CCWA's and its members' rights under their respective agreements with the District, make it more difficult and expensive for members to manage their water supplies, and introduce instabilities for ratepayers.

The language proposed by CCWA has been approved by 25 of the 29 State Water Project contractors, and will serve CCWA and its member agencies well. I urge you to execute both Amendment No. 20 and Amendment No. 21, without conditions, so that CCWA and its members can enjoy the benefits offered by the amendments.

Cathy Murillo, Mayor

Sincerely

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Cc: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, Santa Barbara County Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, Santa Barbara County Tom Fayram, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Matt Young, Water Agency Manager, Santa Barbara County Johannah Hartley, Deputy County Counsel, Santa Barbara County Ray Stokes, Executive Director, Central Coast Water Authority Stephanie Hastings, Counsel, Central Coast Water Authority CCWA Board of Directors Santa Barbara City Council Paul Casey, City Administrator Rebecca Bjork, Assistant City Administrator Dan Hentschke, Assistant City Attorney Joshua Haggmark, Acting Public Works Director Amanda Flesse, Acting Water Resources Manager Catherine Taylor, Water Supply and Service Manager