



June 10, 2020

The Honorable Steven Bradford
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 625 (Bradford): Central Basin Municipal Water District: receivership – **Watch and Engage as Needed to Protect Metropolitan’s Interest**

Assembly Floor - 3rd Reading

Dear Senator Bradford:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I am writing to inform you that our Board of Directors decided to remain neutral on your bill, SB 625, that would place the Central Basin Water District into receivership and dissolve their Board of Directors. Historically, Metropolitan has not engaged in legislative policies that deal directly with an individual member agency’s governance matters, and the Board reaffirmed that position at their meeting this week.

We appreciate that SB 625 names Metropolitan among others to be consulted as part of the proposed Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LA LAFCO) municipal service review, but we would respectfully request that any LA LAFCO process allow us to provide technical input to address potential impacts to our agency. For example, as a member agency to Metropolitan, Central Basin benefits from shared funding for conservation programs and other local resources program funding. We would want to ensure that those funds are used for their intended purpose.

In addition, by making the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) the receiver, your bill would vest WRD with the powers and the authorities of the Central Basin Board of Directors, including permitting WRD to appoint two representatives to fill Central Basin’s seats on our Board. It should be noted that there is a 2007 Attorney General Opinion (No. 05-1113) finding that concurrent membership on the WRD board and the Metropolitan board constitutes an “incompatible office.” Pursuant to state law, if a public official takes a second, incompatible office, he or she automatically loses their first office.

Lastly, there was extensive public comment during our committee and board meetings expressing concern that SB 625 would disenfranchise communities within Central Basin’s service area by

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dissolving their board of directors. The public speakers also expressed concern about the swift action by the Legislature in advancing SB 625 and the difficulty of engaging in the legislative process. We feel you should be aware of these concerns.

I have asked Kathy Viatella, Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative, to follow up with your office should you have any questions about our position and the board discussion of your bill. She can be reached at kviatella@mwdh20.com or (619) 517-5823.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

cc: Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Jr.
Assembly Member Ian Calderon
Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo
Assembly Member Ed Chau
Assembly Member Mike Gipson
Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager
Assembly Member Miguel Santiago
Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors