

## Ocean Desalination as a Last Resort

We, the undersigned, oppose West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) pursuing an ocean desalination project until the agency has exhausted more cost-effective and environmentally beneficial options to promote local water self-sufficiency, including:

- **Reduce**: Significant conservation and efficiency measure to alleviate demand;
- **Reuse**: Greater investment in multi-benefit stormwater capture and use;
- **Recycle**: Expanding West Basin's successful water recycling program; and
- **Restore**: Remediation of groundwater in the West Coast Basin through brackish desalination.

In addition to its detrimental impacts to marine ecosystems, ocean desalination is the most energy-intensive and expensive method of meeting our local water supply needs. At a time when we must be doing everything in our power to reduce our carbon footprint, West Basin must not invest its limited resources in a project whose energy demand will exacerbate climate change impacts, the burden of which will disproportionately impact the communities least equipped to deal with them. Likewise, West Basin should not be pursuing the most expensive option available to enhance local water supplies when much more cost-effective options exist.

In a world of limited resources, committing your valuable money, time, and expertise to ocean desalination is not only unwise, but inevitably hinders or even precludes more environmentally and financially sound options. For these reasons, ocean desalination should only be pursued as an option-of-last-resort.

We encourage the West Basin Board to abandon any plans for ocean desalination in favor of a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, & Restore approach to developing its water portfolio, and look forward to partnering with the agency to fully implement such an approach.

Sincerely yours,

