



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

March 25, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman
The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Cortez Masto:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) owns and operates the Colorado River Aqueduct and serves Colorado River water, as one of two sources of imported supplies, to a service area of 19 million residents throughout Southern Coastal California. Given the importance of Colorado River water in our service area, Metropolitan strongly supports Congress taking action to enact legislation memorializing the terms of the Seven Colorado River Basin State Drought Contingency Plan Agreements (DCPs) in a manner that facilitates implementation of the DCPs this year. Metropolitan actively participated in development of the Lower Basin DCP and believes that the DCPs represent exactly the sort of cooperative efforts of all seven Colorado River Basin states working collaboratively to manage this important shared resource that we strive for as a Basin.

The seven Basin states and contractors, like Metropolitan, developed the DCPs with input from stakeholders throughout the basin, including tribal and environmental leaders, to significantly reduce the risk of Lake Powell and Mead falling below critical elevations by incentivizing conservation and increased water storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. Metropolitan's 38-member board voted unanimously to authorize Metropolitan to step in and be responsible for meeting California's DCP Contributions, even if other California contractors decide not to participate in the Lower Basin DCP. Taking this step enabled Metropolitan to meet the important goals of safeguarding the district's Colorado River supplies and meeting the deadline for DCP completion established by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Implementation of the DCPs will build on existing environmental compliance to protect water supplies, while preserving existing water rights and respecting environmental resources. Metropolitan stands by the testimony of the Colorado River Board of California, as submitted for the record in connection with the need to advance congressional authorizing legislation on this critical issue.

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It is our recommendation that under your leadership, Congress will move forward with the steps necessary to introduce and expedite the terms of the Seven Colorado River Basin States Drought Contingency Plans by enacting legislation to address this urgent matter as soon as possible during the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Kightlinger" clearly distinguishable.

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Joe Manchin, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources