

August 13, 2025

California Water Commission
Attn: Chair Steiner and Commissioners
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Support for Inflationary Increase to the Chino Basin Program through the Water Storage Investment Program

Dear Chair Steiner and Commissioners:

On behalf of Cucamonga Valley Water District, I am writing to express our strong support for the California Water Commission's staff recommendation to provide an inflationary increase of \$53.85 million to the Chino Basin Program (CBP) administered by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency under the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). Cucamonga Valley Water District is a public retail water provider serving over 200,000 residents and businesses across 47 square miles, which includes the City of Rancho Cucamonga and portions of the cities of Fontana, Ontario and Upland. Our mission is to provide high-quality, safe and reliable drinking water to our customers while planning for the long-term resiliency of our community's water resources.

The Chino Basin Program is a transformative regional water project designed to enhance water supply reliability, improve water quality, and increase drought resilience. For Cucamonga Valley Water District, this means a direct and measurable benefit to the customers we serve. By constructing a 15 million gallon-per-day Advanced Water Purification Facility, installing aquifer replenishment wells capable of storing 15,000 acre-feet of advanced treated recycled water annually, and developing extraction facilities to recover this water from the Chino Groundwater Basin, the CBP will provide a secure, high-quality local supply that reduces dependence on imported water from Northern California.

This shift in supply not only reduces vulnerability to imported water shortages but also ensures that our service area has reliable, drought-proof resources during emergencies. In addition, the water offset by our reduced imported water purchase will be redirected to provide 375,000 acre-feet of supplemental

environmental flows over 25 years, delivering important ecosystem benefits that fulfill WSIP's public benefit requirements.

Construction costs for the CBP have increased by over 50% since 2015, and without this funding adjustment, inflation will erode the value of the State's investment and place a disproportionate financial burden on Inland Empire Utilities Agency and its local retail partners like ours. The additional allocation will assist with the financial certainty needed to maintain our commitment to this project, keep critical infrastructure development on schedule, and help ensure that our ratepayers receive the intended benefits.

For Cucamonga Valley Water District, the CBP's benefits include increased operational flexibility to manage supply portfolios and respond to emergencies, greater local supply reliability during droughts and imported water shortages, improved groundwater quality through recharge of advanced purified water, and economic stability for customers through a diversified water supply that mitigates the risk of extreme cost fluctuations.

We respectfully urge the Commission to approve the staff recommendation to reallocate \$53.9 million to the Chino Basin Program. This additional funding will help continue the development of an approach to regional water supply that safeguards our shared water resources and meets the long-term needs of our community.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to securing California's water reliability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall Reed", is positioned above the printed name.

Randall Reed
Board President
Cucamonga Valley Water District