



RECEIVED MAR 19 2014

ITEM NO. L.2

## IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

15600 Sand Canyon Avenue • P.O. Box 57000 • Irvine, California 92619-7000 • (949) 453-5300 • www.irwd.com

March 17, 2014

The Honorable Ambrose Masto  
Capistrano Bay Community Services District  
35000 Beach Road  
Capistrano Beach, California 92624

RE: Request for Support of the Re-election of John Withers of the Irvine Ranch Water District and Orange County Sanitation District to the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission Regular Special Districts Seat

Dear President Masto:

On April 25, 2014, the Orange County Special Districts Selection Committee ballots will be mailed out for the election of the Regular and Alternate Special Districts Members of the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). I have had the privilege of holding the regular member seat since 1994, and am honored to be the longest serving commissioner on the Commission. The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request your support of my re-election as your LAFCO Regular Special Districts Member.

LAFCO plays a critical role in ensuring the highest quality of local government services for the public. In Orange County, LAFCO has been instrumental in serving residents by facilitating constructive changes in governmental structure and boundaries, resolving intergovernmental issues, fostering orderly development and governance, and promoting the efficient delivery of services. LAFCO also serves as a public resource by providing a structure for sharing information among governmental agencies and citizens in Orange County.

Over the last four years of my current term, I have worked diligently to represent and protect the interests of special districts like yours. I have a detailed understanding of the importance and value provided by special districts. Because of my extensive experience, I have developed solid working relationships with other LAFCO Commissioners and, illustrative of this fact, have received the endorsements of LAFCO Chairman Joe Carchio and Vice Chair Patricia Bates. These relationships, developed over a long period of time, are critical to the advocacy efforts of special districts. I am accessible and represent *all* special districts throughout the county. My decisions, which always consider your input, are based on sound policy considerations and not the whims of political forces.

Over my 20 years on LAFCO, I have consistently advocated for LAFCO programs that produce more effective and efficient operations, increase meaningful service for special districts and cities in Orange County, and reduce LAFCO's expenditures. I have brought nearly 25 years of

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professional and governmental experience to the Orange County LAFCO Board, have been a diligent advocate for all special districts, and have ensured that each district is heard and represented as an important stakeholder. Additionally, I have regularly reported and updated the ISDCO Executive Committee and WACO on LAFCO activities.

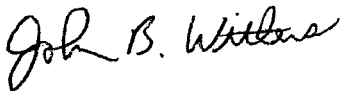
I am running for re-election to the Regular Special District Member seat because I believe that my substantial experience in city, special district and County government, and detailed understanding of the focused services and value special districts provide to the community, can benefit special districts. Additionally, I believe that all special districts in Orange County will continue to benefit from my representation, experience, relationships with other commissioners and my approach to stewardship. For your reference, I have attached a brief list of some of my accomplishments at LAFCO.

In closing, please know that if I am re-elected I will continue to provide excellent representation for residents of Orange County in your district, and respectfully request your vote for my re-election to LAFCO.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this request with me, I can be reached at (949) 861-1250. Also, if you believe it would be beneficial for you and your colleagues to hear from me regarding my qualifications and interests in serving on LAFCO, I would look forward to the opportunity to make such a presentation at one of your upcoming Board meetings or other appropriate setting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my candidacy.

Sincerely,



John Withers  
Director, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Director, Orange County Sanitation District

Enclosure:

# ***Commissioner John Withers***

***LAFCO Regular Special Districts Member***

***John Withers has represented ALL special districts on LAFCO since May 1994.***

John Withers has served on the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors since 1989. Over his twenty-four years of service, he has served as President of the Board, in a number of officer capacities, and currently serves on the Engineering and Operations and Asset Management Committees as well as on various ad hoc committees. He also represents IRWD on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Sanitation District.

Since 1994, Commissioner Withers has served as Commissioner to the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) representing Orange County Special Districts. During his term of service, he has served as LAFCO Chairman, Vice Chairman, and as a member of the LAFCO Executive Committee. He has also served two consecutive years on the CALAFCO Executive Board, and is currently the longest serving OC LAFCO Commissioner. Commissioner Withers has provided twenty years of unmatched professional experience to the LAFCO Board and has been successful in representing special districts. His LAFCO accomplishments include:

## **Accomplishments of Commissioner Withers**

- ***2013-2018 Municipal Service Review Updates:*** Urged the Commission to complete the third round of state-mandated Municipal Service Reviews using a stakeholder approach to ensure that the benefits and services provided by special districts are understood and considered in order to enhance service provision countywide.
- ***Communications:*** Increased transparency, communication and open access to all special district board and city council members by developing and supporting the GRC White Paper in order to provide guidance on various organizational and restricting options to save costs, enhancement of LAFCO's website, and more frequent meetings and presentations with councils and boards to inform them of the Commission's activities.
- ***Budget Management:*** Reduced LAFCO budget expenditures in FY 2012-2013 from previous years, and worked to keep budget increases in FY 2013-2014 at a minimum, resulting in only a 0.33% increase; worked to keep the LAFCO budget apportionments for special districts and cities low; and selected an independent CPA firm to conduct financial audits to review LAFCO's revenue and expenditures to provide more transparency of the LAFCO's operations to funding agencies and the public.
- ***LAFCO Analysis and Studies/Island Annexations:*** Encouraged LAFCO to meet with each Orange County special district and city to discuss the 2013 re-adoption of Spheres of Influence; completed reorganization of the Los Angeles/Orange County boundary; began review of the Orange County Water District's annexation request; completed a number of annexations to special districts including the Yorba Linda Water District, Costa Mesa Sanitary District, and Mesa Water District; completed an update of the LAFCO webpage on Spheres of Influence and Islands; and completed a report documenting the service success stories of special districts.

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***Vote for John Withers for the Orange County LAFCO  
Regular Special Districts Seat.***