



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

October 13, 2020

Gloria Gray
Chair, Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944

RE: MWD Chair Election

Dear Chairwoman Gray:

Thank you for your commitment to delivering safe and affordable water to nearly 19 million ratepayers as the Chair of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). I was proud to support your election two years ago when you became Chair and will continue to support you. I hope that you know how important it is to me that you work very closely and collaboratively with my appointees on the MWD Board. This collaboration is essential to protect our region's ratepayers while we work to recover from recent crises and prepare for climate change—a once future crisis that has all too quickly become reality.

MWD must make some critical decisions very soon and I am counting on a common understanding between us about the gravity of the outcomes. Most importantly, you will lead the hiring of the next General Manager, thus setting the tone for the next era of water management and water equity in California. The next General Manager of MWD must have demonstrated a commitment to regional resilience through the development and support of local water projects. This will be a departure from the status quo—and is necessary to bolster reliability in the face of unpredictable climate patterns. This very well may be the single most important task of your tenure, and it must be executed with diligence, thoughtfulness, and transparency to secure a water future that reflects a changing paradigm and new normal. I expect my Directors and staff to work with you directly throughout the process.

Secondly, Los Angeles is on track to recycle 100% of its wastewater by 2035, and MWD is a natural partner to strategically build and connect local infrastructure to provide affordable drinking water to Southern California. I will rely on your leadership to ensure that MWD continues to invest in regional and local water projects, such as regional water recycling projects and stormwater infiltration in the San Fernando Basin, as well as conservation incentives focused on customers hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn. We all have a responsibility to restore equity and use whatever tools we have available to lift up and protect our most impacted neighbors.

Lastly, the region's water future must be based on science and accurate economic modeling. As MWD decides on investments in the Delta and at home, it is more important than ever that agencies and their ratepayers do not pay more than their fair share. This will mean no new fixed charges and not subsidizing other agencies on planning and projects in the Delta to ensure local agencies can maintain their ability to invest in regional resilience. This also means MWD must accurately and urgently account for climate change impacts in its planning and financial commitments. While water is MWD's business, safe and affordable water is a fundamental right and a necessity for our survival and recovery.

A list of my priorities is also attached. I look forward to working with you to achieve progress on these objectives, and to secure a sustainable and equitable water future for the region.

Sincerely,



ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor