

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Room S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Room S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Regional Water Agency Requests for COVID-19 Stimulus-4 Spending Package

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

As the providers of water and wastewater service to more than 1.6 million customers all across western Riverside County, California, the agencies on this letter have come together to request four specific items be included in the next COVID-19 Stimulus package.

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has left the entire country in an extraordinary state of health and economic uncertainty. Water and wastewater providers are no different. Districts have been required to create entirely new plans and systems of operations, adopt bill payment suspension policies, and are feeling the financial stress of customers who are unable to pay their bills. While we will continue providing uninterrupted essential service to our customers regardless of the status of this pandemic, there are significant long-term financial implications that will weigh heavily on all future system reliability projects.

In order to offset some of these financial burdens, we are respectfully requesting the consideration of the following four items be included in the next COVID-19 stimulus bill:

1. Establish a low-income water rate assistance program with funding distributed directly to water providers. This program would not only offset lost revenues due to water bills not being paid but also make sure low-income customers are not having to choose between water and wastewater service or putting food on their table.
2. Allocate \$1 billion within the Coronavirus Relief Fund, specifically for special districts and local governments to continue essential services across the country.
3. Include special districts and local governments in the COVID-19 Payroll Tax Credit, as these public agencies are currently exempt from the tax credit.
4. Restore advanced refunding of tax-exempt bonds, which would allow flexibility for states and local governments to access billions of dollars to reallocate and spend on system reliability projects.

We understand that you and your staff are receiving an innumerable amount of requests from a wide array of different stakeholders, so we sincerely thank you for considering these requests. We hope you and your family are healthy and safe, and thank you for your continued service to protect everyone during this time. If you or your staff have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Western Municipal Water District's Government Relations Officer Michael Hadley at mhadley@wmwd.com or 951.571.7226.

Very Respectfully,



Craig Miller
General Manager
**Western Municipal
Water District**



Greg Thomas
General Manager
**Elsinore Valley Municipal
Water District**



Chris Berch
General Manager
**Jurupa Community
Services District**



Jeffrey Armstrong
General Manager
**Rancho California
Water District**



Paul Jones, II
General Manager
**Eastern Municipal
Water District**



Todd Corbin
General Manager
**Riverside Public
Utilities**

Cc: Representative Ken Calvert
Representative Mark Takano
Representative Raul Ruiz
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Abby Schnieder, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Jay Tanner, Association of California Water Agencies
Danielle Blacet-Hyden, California Municipal Utilities Association
Alyssa Silhi, California Special Districts Association
Jessica Gauger, California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Jennifer West, WaterReuse California