

January 27, 2022

California Regional Water Board  
San Diego Water Board's office  
2375 Northside Drive. Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92108

**Subject: "Comment - Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0005" and "Comment – Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0006."**

Board Members,

I understand that the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has released for public review and comment, Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0005 (NPDES Permit No. CA0107417), *Waste Discharge Requirements for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall* and Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0006 (NPDES Permit No. CA0107611), *Waste Discharge Requirements for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the Aliso Creek Ocean Outfall* (Tentative Orders).

A public hearing before your Board will be held on Wednesday, March 9, at the City of Mission Viejo's Council Chambers to consider adopting these Tentative Orders, which are a critical and essential component of South Coast Water District's proposed Doheny Ocean Desalination Project.

On behalf of the South Orange County Economic Coalition, which represents and provides a voice for thousands of employees and citizens in the region, we urge you to grant the tentative orders for the South Orange County Wastewater authority and the Doheny Sesalianiton Project. South Orange County water supply reliability is not a given. Hence, projects like the Doheny Desalination project are vital not just for water affordability but also for maintaining our economy and our quality of life. The South Coast Water District alone receives more than two million visitors each year. Businesses rely on these visitors for our livelihood. Our economy and quality of life are dependent on a local, reliable, and safe drinking water supply. Covid-19 has devastated many of the businesses and hotels over these past two years, driving many to close. An earthquake, severe drought, or other natural disasters could cut off our water supply for six months or more. Many of our businesses that did survive Covid would be forced to close. No water means no life, no business, no tourists, and no jobs.

I urge you to approve these Tentative Orders.

Sincerely,



Victoria Hernandez  
Executive Director, South Orange County Economic Coalition