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February 10, 2014

Anthony M. La, P.E.
Assistant General Manager
Water Replenishment District of Southern California
4040 Paramount Boulevard
Lakewood, California 90712

Dear Mr. La:

Protecting Los Angeles County's groundwater is vital to the health and prosperity of all persons who live, work, and visit Los Angeles County. As the Health Officer and Director of the Department of Public Health, I support and encourage sustainable, reliable, and safe technologies that protect, conserve, and replenish our water supply.

Recently, my staff and I were briefed on the work the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) does in managing and safeguarding groundwater supplies in Southern California. It is my understanding that the WRD has been in operation since 1959 and that it manages groundwater supplies that account for 40% of the drinking water used by four million Los Angeles County (LAC) residents.

One of the projects that came up during our discussion was the expansion of the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP). GRIP, as we have come to understand it, utilizes a water filtration process that safely percolates recycled water (formerly referred to as treated wastewater) into the ground for groundwater replenishment and ultimately is recaptured as safe drinking water. Although this program is already in place, the expansion of the GRIP project will allow Southern California to utilize a greater portion of recycled water for ground water replenishment, thereby conserving drinking water supplies and yielding valuable potable water for ecological, residential and economical needs. Expansion of the GRIP will also aid the region in developing a sustainable local water supply system, independent of imported water.

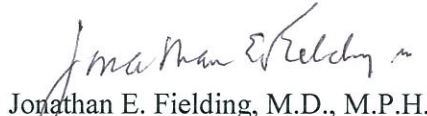
In response to the current drought situation, Governor Brown recently remarked that water recycling can be a key solution to California's water crisis. I share the governor's belief that California must explore creative strategies to maximize the use of its scarce water resources; which includes the expanded use of recycled water.

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As a public health official, I appreciate the need to protect both the safety and the sustainability of our local water supplies. WRD's proposed GRIP program expansion is an innovative step in the right direction toward a sustainable water future for Los Angeles County where safe water recycling can play a key role.

Thank you for bringing this project to our attention. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Angelo J. Bellomo, Director Environmental Health at 626.430.5100 or abellomo@ph.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

JEF:jt

c: Angelo J. Bellomo
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