RESOLUTION NO. 02-19-294

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER ACKNOWLEDGING THE LONG-TERM WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES

IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AND ENCOURAGING REDUCTIONS
IN WATER PRODUCTION TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN
GROUNDWATER BASIN CONDITIONS THAT REMAIN IN A CRITICAL STATE

WHEREAS, the Main San Gabriel Basin is an "overdraft basin" requiring Supplemental Water to augment local water supplies to effectively meet Producers' annual water requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) is appointed by the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles to manage groundwater in the Main San Gabriel Basin; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of fiscal year 1998-99 the annual precipitation in the San Gabriel Valley has been at or below the long-term average precipitation of 18.52 inches in 15 of the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the long-term historical drought conditions the groundwater elevation at the Baldwin Park Key Well has gradually decreased from 267.8 feet above mean sea level (amsl) as of July 1, 1998 to a historic low of 169.4 feet amsl as of November 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Watermaster adopted Resolution 10-08-219 as of October 1, 2008, alerting Producers to a critical water supply shortage and encouraging Producers to implement measures to promote a 20 percent reduction in water demands; and

WHEREAS, in November 2009, the legislature placed the California Urban Water Conservation Law into state statute with the enactment of SBX7-7, setting forth a series of goals and deadlines to reach an overall reduction of 20 percent by year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Main San Gabriel Basin Judgment was amended in June 2012 enabling Watermaster to implement modern and adaptive basin management; and

WHEREAS, the State of California and the San Gabriel Valley continued to experience drought conditions with fiscal year 2013-14 being the driest year on record in the San Gabriel Valley; and

WHEREAS, effective January 17, 2014, Governor Edmond G. Brown, Jr. declared a statewide state of emergency due to drought conditions, and in Executive Order B-29-15 required a 25 percent mandatory reduction in water demands from the 2013 levels: and

WHEREAS, in response to the Governor's Drought Declaration, Watermaster adopted Resolution No. 03-14-260 re-emphasizing the critical water supply shortage and strongly encouraging Producers to implement measures to promote a 20 percent reduction in water demands; and

WHEREAS, Producers within the Main San Gabriel Basin collectively responded to both the Watermaster Resolution and the Governor's Drought Declaration by reducing local production from about 240,500 acre-feet during fiscal year 2013-14 to about 182,800 acre-feet during fiscal year 2015-16; however, production during fiscal year 2017-18 had increased to about 209,500 acre-feet; and

WHEREAS, court-mandated cutbacks on water deliveries from the State Water Project (SWP) have greatly reduced the amount of imported water available to Southern California; and

WHEREAS, the Watermaster depends on imported water from Northern California through the SWP, and the Colorado River, to augment local water supplies; and

WHEREAS, there can be significant differences in hydrology and water supply conditions between Northern and Southern California. For example, during fiscal year 2016-17 Northern California experienced record high precipitation resulting in a SWP allocation of 85 percent. However, in the San Gabriel Valley, precipitation was about 21 inches, representing only about 110 percent of long-term average. Furthermore, local stormwater runoff and replenishment were only about 90 percent of average; and

WHEREAS on April 7, 2017, Governor Brown declared the drought in the State of California over. The Governor's state-wide declaration was not representative of rainfall and groundwater replenishment conditions in the San Gabriel Valley, served by the Main San Gabriel Basin. This

action prompted a return to higher water consumer demands, despite diminished groundwater supply from several years of below average rainfall locally; and

WHEREAS with the new powers granted by the 2012 Main San Gabriel Basin Judgment amendments, Watermaster and Producers jointly developed a Water Resources Development Assessment (RDA) to create a 100,000-acre-foot reserve of untreated imported water, to be stored in the Main San Gabriel Basin over a 10-year period, in the event of a water supply emergency on the statewide imported water delivery infrastructure. The RDA assessment was levied on fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16 production; and

WHEREAS, in response to the lack of stormwater runoff and replenishment due to the drought conditions over the past 20 years, Watermaster and the Producers cooperatively developed and implemented the Stormwater Augmentation Program to enhance the RDA. This tiered approach to the assessment was levied on fiscal year 2016-17 production and is planned to be fully implemented on fiscal year 2020-21 production; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, southern California rate payers have invested more than \$15 billion in regional storage, infrastructure improvements, local resources and water use efficiency programs that are now serving to sustain supplies during this historic dry period; and

WHEREAS, the cities and water agencies serving the San Gabriel Valley's population of more than 1-million people have done an outstanding job working together to develop water-management strategies and implement comprehensive water use efficiency programs to help ensure a reliable supply of high-quality water to meet countywide demand and health and safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, reducing water consumption though conservation is an effective method of reducing overall water demands on the Basin, thereby helping to sustain water levels to minimize overdraft of the Basin; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with AB 1668 and SB 606 establishing requirements for gallons per day per capita regulations;

WHEREAS, increasing and applying efficient water use habits today is the responsible thing to do and will help ensure the San Gabriel Valley has enough water to maintain its quality of life and thriving economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTER AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) All Basin Producers are hereby alerted to, and reminded of, the long-term critical water supply shortage in California, and particularly, in the San Gabriel Valley.
- 2) All Producers are hereby strongly encouraged to implement measures to promote water conservation in order to achieve a reduction to their respective fiscal year 2015-16 production levels.
- 3) This Resolution shall be sent to all Basin Producers and shall remain in effect until such time as Watermaster determines the water levels in the Basin can be sustained without extraordinary conservation measures.

Adopted this 6 day of 7019
Chairman

Secretary