



May 19, 2025

California Water Commission
901 P Street, Suite 142A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Water Storage Investment Program: Chino Basin Program Support

Dear Chair Steiner and Commissioners,

The Chino Basin Program represents a visionary, collaborative approach to enhancing regional water security, addressing groundwater sustainability, and delivering a net positive benefit to retail agencies and local stakeholders. As partners on this program, Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) and Fontana Water Company (FWC) appreciate the opportunity to offer clarification and ensure an accurate understanding of the program's goals and benefits. We remain fully committed to advancing sustainable solutions that safeguard our shared water resources and meet the long-term needs of our communities.

As dedicated partners, CVWD and FWC are both proud and frustrated: proud of the program's vision and progress and deeply frustrated by the continued opposition from agencies that have disproportionately benefited from regional investments for decades.

The opposition's narrative misrepresents the program's design, financial strategy, and impact, while ignoring a simple truth: the CBP is about balancing the scales. For too long, Ontario and Chino have enjoyed a significantly greater share of recycled water, by far, than any other agency in the IEUA service area. Their direct-use demands have long dictated how recycled water is allocated, leaving little for critical recharge purposes. These benefits were made possible by regional investments funded by all IEUA agencies, with the understanding that the entire region would eventually benefit. That time has come, and now, as the CBP begins to create that long-promised equity, those who have reaped the greatest rewards are objecting. The hypocrisy is hard to ignore.

The Chino Basin Program finally delivers on the promise of regional benefit. Through advanced treatment, groundwater injection, and the development of groundwater production facilities, the program unlocks new capacity to reclaim, store, and share recycled water across the entire basin. It addresses longstanding seasonal inefficiencies in water usage and builds flexibility into the system. Moreover, IEUA is working to acquire new

recycled water supplies from the City of Rialto, specifically to support direct-use commitments already prioritized to Ontario and Chino. These cities are not losing water, they are gaining a system that will support their future needs while no longer shutting out their neighbors.

The claim that the program “exports” local water is false. The CBP does not send water away from our region; it enables strategic exchanges during specific conditions, but only after local supplies and infrastructure are secured. This flexibility aligns with broader state water goals and enhances local reliability rather than compromising it. Suggesting otherwise is misleading and undermines public trust.

Financially, the program is on solid footing. The use of property tax reserves and WSIP Early Funding has allowed planning to move forward without burdening retail agencies. While cost-sharing details continue to be refined, IEUA has taken a transparent, methodical approach to securing local and state partnerships. Term sheets adopted in 2024 by CVWD and FWC reflect our performance obligations and affirm our commitment. Claims that financial responsibilities are undefined ignore the reality of ongoing coordination and deliberate design.

The recent preliminary 14,000 acre-foot per year drop of the Chino Basin’s Safe Yield is a wake-up call. If anything, this development strengthens the case for the CBP. We cannot continue to rely on the same outdated strategies while the Chino Basin’s long-term viability declines. The CBP directly responds to these challenges by creating new opportunities for sustainable recharge through advanced treatment and efficient water recharge.

To be clear, the opposition to this program is not about protecting ratepayers. It is about protecting an unsustainable advantage. Regional investments have always relied on shared sacrifice and shared gain. CVWD and FWC have consistently contributed to projects that largely benefitted other agencies because it was the right thing to do for our region. Now, when equity and sustainability are finally within reach, those who benefit the most are attempting to stop it.

On behalf of our agencies, we urge the California Water Commission to stand with those who are committed to responsible, region-wide water management. The Chino Basin Program is not just sound policy; it is a moral obligation to current and future generations. Our customers deserve an approach to regional water supply that is fair, forward-thinking, and resilient. We cannot allow outdated politics and myopic interests to block a program designed to deliver exactly that.

Thank you for your leadership and for continuing to support this essential investment in California’s water future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall Reed", with a stylized, cursive script.

Randall James Reed

Board President

Cucamonga Valley Water District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin E. Zvirbulis", with a stylized, cursive script.

Martin E. Zvirbulis

Vice President – Water Resources

Fontana Water Company