



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
INTERIM MAYOR
TODD GLORIA**

October 14, 2013

Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Vice Chairwoman
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101-2470

RE: Drawdown of Morena Reservoir

Dear Ms. Jacob:

It was a pleasure meeting with you and your staff on September 26, 2013 to discuss issues related to the City Public Utilities Department's (City) need to transfer water from Morena Reservoir for water supply purposes. This is in response to issues raised at the meeting and in your subsequent letter dated September 30, 2013.

The City has evaluated the County's drawdown issues related to public safety, the environment, and recreational opportunities and fully understands, as owner and operator of other water supply/recreational reservoirs, the County's concerns. However, the City requires the current Morena drawdown in order to efficiently utilize local water supply resources and reduce the purchase of expensive imported water. By drafting to the City's target water level of 2,967 feet, environmental impacts will be minimized and recreational opportunities will remain available with over 113 acres of water surface area remaining for users. As we have previously stated, the City faces the same challenges at its other reservoirs but operates them all primarily as water supply reservoirs.

With respect to public safety and the County's concern of adequate supplies of water for fire suppression during the wildfire season, the City's target water level of 2,967 feet will ensure adequate quantity (over 641 million gallons) and surface area to meet fire suppression needs. The City's target elevation will leave over 113 acres of water surface area at Morena Reservoir, equivalent to the size of the San Diego Zoo, which the City has confirmed will provide adequate and safe access for the region's aerial fire suppression equipment.

The County also requested the City consider drafting less water from Morena Reservoir (to elevation 2,980 feet, instead of the City's target elevation of 2,967 feet). The City has studied this and has determined that the City would be required to purchase extra imported raw water to offset the difference in drafting amounts. In order to meet the County's target water elevation,

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the County would need to purchase from the City 2,127 acre feet of water. At the current imported water rate of \$807 per acre foot, the total cost to the County would be \$1,716,489.

In consideration of the above, the City will resume the water transfer from Morena Reservoir on December 1, 2013. The water transfer rate will be at approximately 20 million gallons per day and will take approximately two (2) months before reaching elevation of 2,967 feet. If the County decides to purchase water in Morena Reservoir to achieve a water level of 2,980 feet, the County will need to pay the City \$1,716,489 by January 1, 2014.

For future water withdrawals from Morena Reservoir, the City will establish an annual meeting with the County to discuss the City's planned water transfer activities, including monthly target levels for Morena Reservoir for the upcoming year. This will provide the County with advance notice to make necessary accommodations and adjustments to its recreational facilities. The City will continue to notify key stakeholders of the water transfer, including the Cleveland National Forest, International Boundary and Water Commission, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

For any questions or for any additional information, please contact Jesus Meda, Deputy Director of the Water System Operations Division, at (619) 527-3156.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "T" and a cursive "Gloria".

Todd Gloria
Interim Mayor