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September 22, 2021

Riverside LAFCO Commission  
6216 Brockton Avenue, Suite 111-B  
Riverside, CA 92506

**5.a.**  
**LAFCO 2019-11-3-Murrieta FMSR**  
**9/23/2021**

To: Riverside LAFCO Commissioners  
Michael Vargas, Chair  
Stephen Tomanelli, Vice-Chair  
Kevin Jeffries  
Jeff Hewitt  
Phil Williams  
Nancy Wright  
Steve Sanchez  
Ted Hoffman  
Jim Love  
V. Manual Perez  
Steven Pastor

Emailed: Gary Thompson [gthompson@lafco.org](mailto:gthompson@lafco.org)  
Rebecca Holtzclaw [rholtzclaw@lafco.org](mailto:rholtzclaw@lafco.org)

**Subject: Murrieta Service Area Focused Municipal Service Review**

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Western Municipal Water District Board of Directors and the water service customers in the Murrieta Service Area, I would like to thank the Riverside LAFCO Commission and staff for taking the time to lead a detailed analysis of the water services provided in the focus area. Through the Municipal Service Review (MSR) process, we have realized opportunities for new partnerships, regional collaboration, and the potential to share infrastructure for the mutual benefit of customers beyond a single agency's service area. As a result of the MSR, the staffs of Western Municipal Water District (Western) and Rancho California Water District (Rancho) have already begun to explore the potential opportunities between the neighboring agencies.

The interim result of our work together is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed by the Boards of each agency. The MOU provides a framework for continued collaboration with the goal of:

- Optimizing the use of existing infrastructure assets which may benefit current and future customers within the Murrieta Service Area, as well as Rancho customers who have invested in building available capacity within its water system.
- Pursuing new interconnections between the two parties' distribution systems which may facilitate and expedite the provision of service to areas which may be subject to future development.
- Pursuing new interconnections between the two parties, and/or with other neighboring agencies, which may facilitate the provision of imported water service.

- Providing Western with access to available storage in Rancho's water supply facilities and resources.
- Analyzing potential cost sharing for firefighting infrastructure, especially along the wildland interface and in adjacent communities not served by either municipal system.
- Jointly developing a groundwater pumping plan for the Murrieta Groundwater Subbasin.

Western believes the water and infrastructure future of the Murrieta Service Area is more secure and sustainable through regional partnerships. Thanks again for LAFCO's leadership and perseverance in this prolonged process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig D. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Craig D. Miller, P.E.  
General Manager

