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September 8, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor, State of California
 1021 O Street, Suite 9000
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1157 (Hertzberg) – Veto Request

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) respectfully requests your veto of SB 1157 (Hertzberg) related to indoor residential water use standards. OC San provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County, CA. OC San’s primary mission is to protect public health and the environment through its services.

OC San believes that ordering a standard for the year 2030 before conducting the additional quantitative analysis of an appropriate standard is premature. OC San believes that the standards included in the bill do not adequately mitigate or address the adverse impacts and significant costs that will occur, especially to the wastewater industry. Furthermore, the additional study language that is outlined as part of the bill is significantly flawed, as it is not prescriptive enough to ensure that a thorough examination of the impacts with reducing flow to the 42 gallons per capita per day standard will not have a significant adverse effect to our infrastructure and rates.

As you know, OC San is a leader in wastewater recycling in the State and partners with the Orange County Water District with the Groundwater Replenishment System that recycles nearly 100 percent of our wastewater flow to drinking water quality standards for indirect potable reuse. A significant reduction of water use without the appropriate quantitative analysis or conservation credits would change the influent into the wastewater treatment process reducing the design capacity, and would change the potency of the flow, making it significantly harder and more expensive to treat.

Furthermore, this new standard ignores the significant investment (hundreds of millions of dollars) that our agencies and ratepayers have dedicated to water recycling as well as the decades of partnerships that OC San have fostered.

For these reasons, OC San respectfully requests your veto of SB 1157 (Hertzberg). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, Administration Manager at (714) 593-7581 or via mail at JCabral@ocsan.gov.

Sincerely,

Chad P. Wanke
 Board Chairman

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