



December 15, 2011

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Mr. Thomas Carpenter  
Designated Federal Officer  
Science Advisory Board (MC-1400R)  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Environmental Economics Advisory Committee's consideration and pending report of the value of water to the U.S. economy. As a provider of water, recycled water and wastewater services to municipal and agriculture users, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) recognizes the value of water and the need to manage it wisely for current and future generations.

EMWD encompasses 542-square miles and serves more than 133,000 domestic customers and approximately 130 agricultural customers. It also supplies supplemental water to several cities and local water agencies. EMWD owns and operates 18 active production wells, 2,400 miles of water lines, 1,800 miles of sewer lines, 130 water pumping plants and sewage lift stations, and 82 active water storage tanks with a total capacity of 194 million gallons. EMWD's four regional water reclamation facilities treat 46 million gallons of wastewater per day from 225,000 sewer connections.

EMWD relies on imported water from the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and the Colorado River through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for up to three-quarters of its potable water supplies. The remaining potable water comes from wells located throughout EMWD's service area. As one of California's largest users of recycled water, EMWD operates 18 pumping facilities on more than 200 miles of pipelines serving agriculture, golf courses, school landscaping and an energy generating plant. Altogether, two billion gallons of recycled water can be stored until needed. EMWD currently uses nearly 70 percent of the recycled water it generates at its wastewater treatment facilities and is aggressively moving towards its goal of zero discharge by treating and utilizing 100 percent of its wastewater flow for recycled water demands.

The charge of the Environmental Economic Advisory Committee to evaluate prepare a report on the value of water to the U.S. economy is extremely broad and ambitious. The value of safe and reliable sources of water is a universal and fundamental requirement of life and an essential element in the foundation of any economy. While water is essential in every instance, placing a value on it seems an impossible task given the innumerable factors – including use, geography, climate, production and management costs, supply – that impact its value.

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We understand that the USEPA is in the early phases of developing the scope of this analysis, and we strongly encourage you to ensure that practitioners who manage water and wastewater systems be included on the Advisory Committee. Similarly, we urge you to provide adequate advance notice of materials available for review and comment by the public. The public is the beneficiary of water resources and pays the cost for its use and management. We view public input as a critical component of your process for determining the value of water.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Jones II, P.E.

- C: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, California Senator
- The Honorable Barbara Boxer, California Senator
- The Honorable Mary Bono Mack, Congressional Representative, CA 45
- The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Congressman, CA 41
- The Honorable Ken Calvert, Congressman, CA 44
- The Honorable Darrell Issa, Congressman, CA 49
- Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency