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October 5, 2016

Colleen A. Hoey
Director, Office of Mexican Affairs, Department of State

RE: Presidential Permit for Otay Water District's Otay Mesa Conveyance and Disinfection System Project, Docket Number DOS-2016-0061

Dear Director Hoey:

The Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce supports the Otay Water District's (Otay) application for a Presidential Permit for the Otay Mesa Conveyance and Disinfection System Project (Conveyance Project) and agrees that it is in the national interest of the United States.

I represent the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce an 89 year old organization that serves as the voice of over 800 local businesses that provides jobs, generate tax revenue, build infrastructure, and provide services for the City of Chula Vista. Our members are key contributors to the Chula Vista's economy and that have helped foster the growth of new business and commerce throughout the region. They also make significant contributions to the local economy, employing more than 35,000 individuals in Chula Vista.

Our organization is among Otay's 222,000 customers in the communities of Otay Mesa, Chula Vista, Jamul, Spring Valley, Rancho San Diego, and unincorporated areas in southeastern San Diego County, California. A reliable water supply is critical to meet growing demands and support the economy and quality of life of these communities. Like other water customers in Southern California, we face the challenges of acquiring a safe and reliable water supply in the face of severe, persistent drought and the continuing prospect of adapting to declining traditional water supplies from a changing climate.

Our Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce and its members commend Otay's forethought and leadership to secure a new drought-proof water supply source for San Diego County through the proposed border-crossing pipeline to import and distribute desalinated potable water from Mexico. The Conveyance Project would meet the potable water demand of up to two-thirds of Otay's customers and is part of Otay's long-term plan to diversify local water supplies, improve supply reliability to meet future demand, and reduce dependence on the Colorado River. The Conveyance Project will be in the interest of Southern California, the Western United States, and the United States to the extent that desalinated water from Mexico will decrease the need to import water from the Colorado River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Diversifying our water supplies with desalinated potable water from Mexico is clearly in the public interest of water customers in the United States.

The Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce gladly welcomes any questions or comments that you might have on this vital project for the San Diego region.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cohen
CEO