



October 7, 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 San Diego County Hispanic 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.

The San Diego County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SDCHCC) is San Diego's largest business association representing the San Diego-Tijuana Hispanic Business community. The SDCHCC was founded as a not-for-profit legal entity in 1989 by a group of men and women business owners who felt a need for an organization to assist and promote the interests of the Hispanic entrepreneur in San Diego County

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.

SDCHCC 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.

SDCHCC gladly welcomes any questions or comments that you might have on this vital project for the San Diego region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juan Carlos Hernandez'. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Juan Carlos Hernandez, Chairman of the Board