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Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Petition To Exempt From Preemption, California's Water Efficiency Standards For Residential Clothes Washers

Dear Secretary Bodman,

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District) supports the California Energy Commission petition to exempt California from preemption filed on behalf of the State of California. Sustainable water efficiency is a major aspect of our efforts to assure that a safe and reliable water supply is available to California citizens, businesses and the supporting environment. The District urges you to consider the unique characteristics of California that offer convincing reasons for this exemption. Please consider the following:

California's Interests are Unusual and Compelling

California has the most extensive water importation and distribution system in the nation. Most of the water demand is more than 300 miles from the water source. The water source for the District is the Colorado River and the California Bay-Delta.

The extensive importation and distribution of water supplies not only increases costs; it greatly increases security risks. Much of California's water supply travels through the Sacramento Delta, contained and channeled to Southern California through a myriad of levees. Now, these aging levees are susceptible to failure. The liability has become so great that the Governor of California has recently requested that the Delta levees be granted National Emergency status. Seawater intrusion threatens groundwater sources where over-pumping has become necessary; further surface water interruptions could cause irreparable damage. No other state is so susceptible to the catastrophic effects of natural or intentional interruptions in water supply. Water use efficiency

can greatly minimize the severe negative impact of major interruptions in California's unique and precarious water supply network.

The District serves approximately 24,000 customers, including 58,000 residents and imports 100% of its water. Improving water use efficiency is a vital part of our resource planning, and is the most viable source for water needed to meet the current and future needs of our customers. In addition, water efficiency minimizes the hardships our customers will endure in the event of potential water supply crises.

California's Unique Water-Economy Situation

California's economy, equivalent to that of the fifth largest country worldwide, is dependant on an adequate and reliable water supply. Impacting California's economy with water shortages will have a negative ripple effect on the entire nation. Water efficiency offers California its most cost effective source of water to feed its economy; an economy the entire nation depends on for financial stability.

Alternative Approaches Implemented

There are many alternative cost-effective methods to improve water efficiency, and we are already implementing them. Improving the efficiency of clothes washers is only part of the overall solution for reliable water supply, yet it is a vital part. The District evaluates water efficiency options and water supply options equally in its planning process. We implement all of the most cost-effective strategies available. Improving the efficiency of clothes washers does not supplant other reasonable means available. Our efforts to provide a reliable source of water California include the following:

- *Weather-based Irrigation Controller and mulch Distributions*
- *Vouchers for water-saving devices*
- *Free surveys to inspect irrigation systems for leaks and make recommendations for efficient water use*
- *Irrigation system upgrade grants of up to \$5,000*
- *Various school and public information programs including classes on California friendly landscape design, drought tolerant plants and efficient irrigation systems*
- *California friendly landscape contests*
- *An ordinance prohibiting water waste*
- *Product standards support*
- *Water transfers*
- *Recycled water*
- *Groundwater recharge*
- *Desalination.*

The District cannot afford to dismiss any reasonable and cost effective method to increase water supply or decrease water demand.

Exemption from Preemption is Necessary

Water efficiency standards for appliances are not the only solution, but are a very important part of a large array of strategies to solve our impending water crisis. Clothes washers are a major water use in 80% of homes. High efficiency washers save more than 50% of the water wasted by traditional washers. A typical family using a non-efficient washer wastes more than 6,000 gallons of water per year. We must stop this waste by every means available, and without undue financial burden to the ratepayers. Currently, the only available action to agencies is to offer rebates or vouchers to encourage the purchase of the high-efficiency washers; this method has limited effect and is very costly, compared to appliance standards. Ratepayers bear an undue burden because washer efficiency standards cannot be adopted by the State.

We urge you to accept California's petition to allow California to determine its own water future without the need for Federal assistance. Please grant the preemption necessary for California, its citizens and the District to secure a safe and reliable water supply for the state.

Sincerely,
OLIVENHAIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. McCollom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David C. McCollom
General Manager