Information presented to
the Commission at the
5-20-15 LAFCO hearing.

SBVWCD Comments at the LAFCO Commission Meeting on May 20, 2015 on the MSR Review and sphere of influence request

Good morning LAFCO Commissioners and staff. My name is Richard Corneille and I am the President and Chairman of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District. I am presenting comments on behalf of the rest of the Board, including Melody McDonald and John Longville, who are here this morning. I want to thank your staff for the detailed report and accepting the revisions and corrections we requested from the draft report. Unraveling all the entities working together to support water conservation in the East Valley is a big task, let alone the West Valley as well.

We support the conclusions that the Staff report makes and agree for the most part with the characterizations in the report. We appreciated the direct working relationship between our general manager and LAFCO staff to make this report accurately represent the services of water conservation. At no time in recent history could the dual roles of water conservation, Water Use Efficiency Education and Groundwater Recharge, be more important than in this historic drought; Indeed our district was formed as an association shortly after a devastating drought in the late 1800's.

We appreciate LAFCO's recognition of the financial and governance improvements our Board committed to when LAFCO considered our last service review. We implemented most of the financial changes LAFCO recommended in the prior review; this is a credit to LAFCO's work and the review process. Also, we have entered into cooperative agreements and MOUs with SBVMWD, EVWD, IERCD and others.

We are very pleased that LAFCO staff is supporting the concept of a Groundwater Sustainability Council. This effort was proposed by our District and partners, who are working closely together to demonstrate Groundwater Sustainability in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act that passed last year. We believe that the Council will allow an even more collaborative and equitable method to plan, fund, and implement water conservation in the East Valley. The group is finalizing a draft memorandum of understanding to develop and implement the Groundwater Sustainability Council. The Council concept has the support of the SBVMWD Advisory Commission on Water Policy and the USAWRA. We have requested a sphere of influence that is supported by the District's partners, other districts, cities and participants who are working to form the Groundwater Sustainability Council. Just last week the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District that we work very closely with, provided a letter of support.

5c. **We request that the Commission support the sphere requested by our District. While the points made by LAFCO staff are relevant, further analysis at this time of alternative spheres is simply premature. Our region needs time to complete the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability council to identify IF conservation services by the District might even be needed outside the sphere we requested. We believe that adequate time is available to request a sphere or boundary change from LAFCO should the Groundwater Sustainability Council recommend such an action. Again we appreciate the work of staff and the LAFCO Commission. Thank you.** *(Daniel Cozad our General Manager will answer any questions on technical issues.)*