



December 23, 2021

Arden Wallum
General Manager
Mission Springs Water District
66575 2nd Street
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

Dear Arden:

The current contract between Mission Springs Water District and Carpi & Clay expires on January 31, 2021. I have continued to greatly appreciate the opportunity to represent the District in Washington, D.C. and would like to request to renew the agreement for another year at the current terms.

For the past fifteen years, I have had the privilege and the honor of representing Mission Springs Water District at the federal level. During that time, Mission Springs Water District has been able maintain a constant federal presence in Washington, D.C. and as such, achieve a great deal for its customers and the community. I have always been and will continue to be proud of the work that we have done together and our corresponding successes. I am confident that a continued professional relationship will yield additional results for the District at the federal level.

After more than a decade, Congress decided to remove its self-imposed ban on earmarks, or what are now called community project requests, for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations process. The District submitted funding requests to your entire Congressional delegation for consideration. Senator Feinstein submitted the District's community project request for funding from the Army Corps of Engineers for the Groundwater Protection Project to the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, and as a result, \$250,000 was included in the FY22 Senate Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the project. To date, the District has received over \$11 million in federal funding for the Groundwater Protection Project. Congress is still working to finalize the FY22 appropriations bills and is hoping to do so before the current continuing resolution expires on February 18, 2022.

In addition to working to secure federal funding for the District's Groundwater Protection Project, over the past year I have also been working on the following federal issues on behalf of the District:

- Legislation to allow special districts to receive direct federal funding to help alleviate the impacts of COVID-19
- Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program at the Department of Health and Human Services

- Legislation regarding tax-exempt status for water conservation rebates
- Drought Interagency Working Group (comprised of Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture)
- American Rescue Plan Act
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency rewrite of the Waters of the United State rule
- Environmental Protection Agency Lead and Copper rule
- Federal grant opportunities at the Bureau of Reclamation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture

The coming year will present a flurry of activity and opportunities at the federal level for the District. The Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Environmental Protection Agency will be spending the first few months of the new year working to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This will mean putting numerous funding opportunities on the street. I will work with the District to apply for and support applications for these funding opportunities. Additionally, I will help the District draft and submit FY23 community project requests to your Congressional delegation, as well as continue to advocate for federal funding for programs of importance at the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. I will also continue to keep the District apprised of federal agency regulatory actions that would impact the District, and put together public comments where appropriate. As always, I will ensure that the District is well-positioned to take advantage of any new federal opportunities.

I have greatly appreciated our continued partnership and believe that it has yielded significant benefits to the District and your customers. I look forward to another successful year ahead. Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to continue to represent you in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,



Laura Morgan-Kessler
Principal