



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Dan Charlton

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
36th Assembly District
1020 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3198 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), which serves approximately 300,000 residents in its 1,000 square-miles of service area ranging from the San Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, is pleased to support AB 3198, which would allow for public agency participation in a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to provide power in the Coachella Valley region despite dissimilar powers held by the affected agencies.

The Imperial Local Agency Formation Committee's (LAFCO's) report, *Alternative Governance Structures and Alternative Electricity Service Provisions: Imperial Irrigation District*, (November, 2023) considered a number of alternatives for providing power to the Coachella Valley region in the event the agreement between the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is not extended beyond 2033. One of the alternatives was the formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

In the event the stakeholders in the Coachella Valley region support forming a JPA to provide electrical power, CVWD would be excluded from participating since it does not have the statutory authority to be a power provider. There is, however, precedent for special legislation to authorize participation in a JPA by an entity without identical powers to the other JPA members.

AB 3198 would allow for two of the largest stakeholders, the County of Riverside and CVWD, to participate in the governance of any future JPA formed to provide power to the region. Although the current structure to provide power will continue through 2033, ten years or more may be necessary to undertake all the efforts required to bring about such a major change if that is what is in the public's interest.

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For these reasons, CVWD is pleased to support AB 3198.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

J. M. Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, Chair Assembly Local Government Committee
The Honorable Marie Waldron, Vice Chair Assembly Local Government Committee
Members of the Assembly Local Government Committee
Jimmy MacDonald, Consultant Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Republican Caucus Consultant