



# 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

August 26, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: **AB 3198 (Garcia) – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), which serves approximately 300,000 residents in its 1,000 square-mile service area, is pleased to support Assembly Bill (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 several 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, currently CVWD and Riverside County would be excluded from participating as they lack the statutory authority to be power providers. 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, namely the County of Riverside and CVWD, to participate in the governance of any future JPA formed to provide power to the region, thus ensuring communities and interests of the Coachella Valley have representation in the JPA. 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 aligns with the public's interest.

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Page 2

For these reasons, CVWD is pleased to support and encourages you to sign AB 3198.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and "M".

J. M. Barrett  
General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

cc: Hon. Eduardo Garcia