



# Costa Mesa Sanitary District

...an Independent Special District

March 16, 2018

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MESA WATER DISTRICT

The Honorable Jim Atkinson  
President  
Mesa Water District  
1965 Placentia Ave.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Dear President Atkinson:

We received your letter of March 13 regarding the ongoing dialogue between the Boards of Directors of Mesa Water District and Costa Mesa Sanitary District. Speaking on behalf of the CMSD Board of Directors and our customers, I most certainly concur with you that when public agencies fight, everyone loses.

That being said, we found interesting your statement that your Board "has chosen to stand down on the issue (of consolidation) since the passage of Measure TT and will continue to do so unless and until the consensus of the Costa Mesa Sanitary District Board changes." This seems to contradict your letter of January 24, in which you offer that Mesa Water District will "stand down" as it pertains to further contemplation of our efforts relative to consolidation with Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD) if CMSD discontinues its current legal actions against Mesa Water.

I also want to be very clear on two other points you raise in your letter. From the very beginning of our recent dialogue, which was initiated subsequent to your election as Board President late last year, that we are committed to ceasing all legal action and related efforts upon your Board taking and official action to stand down. We remain committed to this pledge.

You also assert that CMSD was offered the opportunity to participate in drafting the scope of the Arcadis study, which your Board had already commissioned prior to reaching out. It has been the CMSD Board's contention and strong belief all along that if Mesa had been truly interested in a collaborative analysis of this issue, the invitation to participate in the effort would have come prior to not only the first iteration of the Arcadis report, but also before your Board retained LA Consulting to do similar work roughly a year prior.

## Board of Directors

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James Ferryman  
Arlene Schafer  
Robert Ooten  
Arthur Perry

## Staff

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General Manager

Robin B. Hamers  
District Engineer

Alan R. Burns  
District Counsel

Marcus D. Davis  
Treasurer

Noelani Middenway  
District Clerk

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On behalf of the CMSD Board of Directors, let me emphasize: our intent, as expressed in the Settlement Conference Statement filed earlier this week and which I have attached, is to bring this entire matter to a conclusion in the swiftest possible fashion via either of two scenarios, which are outlined in the Statement. We believe this to be the wisest and most expedient path at this juncture.

As stated previously, I remain available to discuss this and other matters with you as you so desire. On behalf of the CMSD Board, we welcome the opportunity to, as you have stated, move toward putting this matter to rest.

Thank you for your consideration and best regards.

Sincerely,



Michael Scheafer  
CMSD Board President

cc: CMSD Board members  
Mesa Water District Board members  
Scott Carroll, CMSD General Manager  
Paul Shoenberger, Mesa Water General Manager