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November 22, 2005

California Public Utilities Commission
Division of Strategic Planning
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298
Attention: Edward Howard

SUBJECT: CPUC Water Action Plan

Mr. Howard:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), I wish to commend the CPUC for initiating a process to develop a proactive approach to regulating investor-owned water utilities. The Draft *Water Action Plan* dated November 9, 2005 discusses six objectives of the PUC that are intended to promote the following principles:

- safe, high quality water;
- highly reliable water supplies;
- efficient use of water; and
- reasonable rates and viable utilities.

While CALAFCO finds the objectives outlined in the Plan to be appropriate and necessary for the CPUC to realize these principles, we note that the document heavily emphasizes the regulation of existing infrastructure, water quality, and standards. In addition, interagency cooperation is discussed almost exclusively in terms of the regulation of water quality. The Plan offers no discussion of the relationship between land use regulation and water delivery, nor does it discuss the need for interagency cooperation between private and public water providers. CALAFCO believes that the interests of all Californians would be best served if the CPUC incorporates within the Plan additional objectives that relate to greater coordination and cooperation between private water utilities and local governments.

Sincerely,

SIGNED ORIGINAL AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Dan Schwarz
Legislative Chair

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c: CALAFCO Board

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CALAFCO Membership

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