

September 11, 2006

Honorable Dianne Jacob  
Supervisor  
1600 Pacific Highway - 452  
San Diego, CA. 92101

**RE: Upper San Diego River Organization**

Dear Supervisor Jacob:

The recent informative article *Neighbors seek water relief*, dated August 20, 2006 by Chet Barfield, once again brought to the light the unfortunate origins of the loss of a domestic rural water supply. This loss has negatively affected the tribal and non-tribal community's quality of life and economic futures. Overtime, this loss of water has affected all who travel Old Barona Road and face the delays and increased traffic by slow moving and expensive water trucks delivering their life sustaining fluid. The loss of water has even affected the taxable revenue of the County due to the decrease in property values.

Respectfully we request a "scientific hydrological study" of the ground water in the affected area of Old Barona Road. We urge a collaborative approach by the Barona Band and the County of San Diego to initiate this study. Such a study presents an opportunity to share data, monitor groundwater production rates, locations and pumping times of wells in order to establish a record and determine where to begin to develop a comprehensive solution.

The Association continues to seek other potential options for a dependable water supply that will provide comprehensive relief to our community. New complex issues and processes continue to appear. Lakeside Water District has stated it is unable to provide infrastructure needs to provide public services to the citizens living on Old Barona Road. Lakeside Water District's current five-year Capital Improvement Plan for *planning infrastructure* (years of 2003-2008) does not include our area.

Moreover our area is outside of the County Water Authority and it will require the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors to amend the service area or create a new one. This is further complicated with the need to coordinate with Metropolitan Water District to expand or develop a new district. Finally an approval through the Local Agency Formation Commission will be required. While this is a complex process it appears viable and beneficial in providing a long-term and comprehensive solution to water needs of Old Barona Road Association and the surrounding area.

The backcountry of San Diego is changing. There are many new homes since the service area of the County Water Authority was first formed. The area is characterized by low-density residential and industrial uses as opposed to prior agricultural uses. Three of the Counties largest Tribal Gaming Operations are in the backcountry attracting tens of

thousands of visitors each day. These successful commercial facilities employ thousands of San Diego residents and attract tourism to our County. These operations are in need of a secure and dependable surface water supply. The Cedar Fire made it clear that a dependable source of water in our area would have prevented significant property damage and perhaps saved lives. While the current Reorganization of the Upper San Diego River Municipal Service Area is a step in the right direction, the residents of Old Barona Road and the surrounding area need to be included in the Sphere of Influence of the County Water Authority and the Lakeside Water District.

The Old Barona Road Association respectfully requests that the San Diego Board of Supervisors give consideration to the request to amend the current County Water Authority service area and begin the necessary steps of a comprehensive review of municipal water services to residents of the Old Barona Road Association.

Thank you for your continued support and efforts to bring water to the Old Barona Road residents.

Sincerely,

Bob Bowling – President  
Old Barona Road Association

CC:

Michael D. Ott – Executive Officer, Local Agency Formation Commission

Robert D. Cook – General Manager, Lakeside Water District

Ronald R. Gastelum – Chief Executive Officer Metropolitan Water District

Honorable Rhonda Welch Scalco – Chairwoman, Barona Band of Mission Indians