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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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Second Vice President  
DON BANKHEAD  
  
General Manager  
MICHAEL R. MARKUS, P.E.

November 4, 2011

Patrick J. Alford  
City of Newport Beach  
3300 Newport Boulevard  
PO Box 1768  
Newport Beach, CA 92685

Dear Mr. Alford:

Subject: Newport Banning Ranch Draft Environmental Impact Report,  
State Clearinghouse No. 2009031061

The Orange County Water District (OCWD, the District) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR for the Newport Banning Ranch Project. OCWD was established by the State of California in 1933 to manage the Orange County Groundwater Basin. Water produced from the basin is the primary water supply for approximately 2.5 million residents in Orange County. OCWD maintains and operates facilities in the cities of Anaheim and Orange, which include the Santiago Basins, to recharge surface water into the groundwater basin. OCWD also operates a seawater intrusion control system in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach to control seawater intrusion into the groundwater basin.

Please make the following changes to the description of the Orange County Water District on page 4.15-16:

1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: The OCWD ~~regulates~~ manages the use of groundwater supplies ~~through a as described in the District's Groundwater Basin Management Plan.~~ A Groundwater Management Plan 2009 Update was considered and adopted by the OCWD Board of Directors on July 15, 2009 (~~Miller~~ OCWD 2009).

2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: As part of the ~~regulation~~ management of groundwater supplies, the OCWD is ~~responsible for recharging local groundwater basins (including the La Habra Basin, the San Juan Basin, the Laguna Canyon Basin, and the Lower Santa Ana River Basin)...~~ recharges the Orange County Groundwater Basin...

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3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: OCWD's 2009 Draft Groundwater Management Plan Update estimates groundwater replenishment supplies of 61,000 afy (OCWD 2009).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Markus', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael R. Markus, P.E.  
General Manager