



## The RIVER PROJECT

3912 Laurel Canyon Blvd., # 208

Studio City, California 91604

tel: 818-980-9660

[www.TheRiverProject.org](http://www.TheRiverProject.org)

December 10, 2013

Councilmember Felipe Fuentes  
Chair, Energy & Environment Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
201 N Spring Street, Rm 455  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CF#13-1598

RE: Support for Councilmember Paul Koretz's Metropolitan Water District Board Appointment

Dear Councilmember Fuentes,

The River Project is writing to express the strongest support for Mayor Garcetti's nomination of Councilmember Paul Koretz to serve on the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board. Given the magnitude of water challenges that face our region, the appointment of an elected official is an appropriate acknowledgement of the level of importance Los Angeles places on its representation on the 37-member board. Councilmember Koretz's knowledge of the various and complex water issues facing the city, and his commitment to assuring a safe, secure and affordable water supply while making sure Los Angeles expands its local water resources, makes him an excellent choice.

Councilmember Koretz has proven himself as a leader on water issues locally and at the statewide level, though his service on the State Assembly. He led the effort to reduce plastic pollution in our local waterways, and to protect local groundwater supplies through his work on the issue of hydrologic fracturing. His advocacy for native plantings on the Expo Line demonstrated his commitment to water conservation efforts.

The City of Los Angeles' representatives on the MWD Board will play an extremely important role in the coming years in deciding significant issues such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and in shaping critical budget and policy matters regarding expanded incentive programs and investments in local water supplies. We are confident Councilmember Koretz will represent the City of Los Angeles exceptionally well on one of the foremost issues facing the region today, a sustainable water supply.

Sincerely,

Melanie Winter, Director

Cc:  
Councilmember Paul Koretz  
Council President Herb Wesson  
Los Angeles City Council  
Mayor Garcetti  
Guy Lipa

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FOUNDATION**  
for Wild Flowers &  
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CF#13-1598

December 7, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

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It is a pleasure to write this letter of support for Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz, who has been nominated to the Metropolitan Water District Board by Mayor Garcetti. It would be difficult to find a nominee more committed to the sustainability of the region or more knowledgeable about how real immediate gains can be made for water conservation and availability through everyday actions. Councilmember Koretz is well versed in the water issues facing our region and has actively supported efforts to shift the Los Angeles landscaping paradigm from water-thirsty plants to drought-tolerant native plants. On average, native plants use one-seventh the water of most non-natives and contribute to water quality and watershed health because they do not require soil amendments, fertilizers or pesticides. Councilmember Koretz provided crucial leadership in changing the proposed landscape of Phase Two of the Expo Line from water-thirsty non-native plants to drought-tolerant natives for nearly 90% of the area. Efforts such as this – seizing the opportunity to save water through very basic smart choices – are what make him an ideal nominee for the Metro Water District Board.

Councilmember Koretz's commitment to finding cost-effective, long-term solutions for our region's issues will be a boon to the Metropolitan Water District Board. The Councilmember's problem-solving skills will be put to good use as the availability of water is certain to become more and more of an issue in this time of climate change. Having lived in California his entire life, Councilmember Koretz has a deep appreciation of how water is at the heart of so many issues facing our state, from power supplies, to agriculture, to development. He was the first Southern California Director of the California League of Conservation Voters, and served as Administrative Director of the Ecology Center of Southern California.

The "low-hanging fruit" of water conservation through region-wide native landscaping has not yet been picked. It would be stellar to have Councilmember Koretz on the Metro Water District Board because he has a real understanding of the savings and benefits that a shift to natives would make possible for Southern California and how that would help our water supply in the years to come. The NOAA's CIRES study recently identified Los Angeles as the number one city in the United States to be at risk for running out of water by 2050. In light of this, the Metro Water District Board needs Paul Koretz because he has the skills, understanding and commitment to make Los Angeles sustainable.

Yours sincerely,  
Lynnette Kampe  
Executive Director

10459 Tuxford Street  
Sun Valley, CA 91352  
(818) 768-1802  
(818) 768-5215 fax  
info@theodorepayne.org  
www.theodorepayne.org