



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

June 29, 2011

Anthony Saracino, Chair
California Water Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Saracino,

From time to time, state facilities have been named for persons who have played important roles in the construction, management, and operation of California water projects. Ronald B. Robie is a person worthy of such recognition.

Now a Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, Justice Robie has a long history of service relating to water legislation, water management, and water law in our state. From September 1960 to April 1969, he was principal staff to the Assembly Water Commission under its Chair, Carley Porter. Among the major legislative accomplishments during that time was the Porter-Cologne Act, creating the State Water Control Board, to which Governor Reagan appointed then-attorney Ronald Robie from 1969 to 1975. During his service as its Vice-Chair, the Board developed procedures and practices for integrating water quality and water rights, together with implementation of the Clean Water Act in California. From 1975 to 1983, Robie was the Director of Water Resources, appointed to the position by Governor Brown. During that time, he drafted and received legislative approval for state water facilities; managed the state's water resources during the 1976-1977 drought, the most severe drought in California's history; completed and expanded phases of the State Water Project; and worked with the Chair of the Board to create and implement the Governor's Commission to Review California Water Rights Law.

As a jurist, Justice Robie continues to be very involved in water issues. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Water Education Foundation; has authored and participated in major water law decisions; is the convener of "Dividing the Waters," an educational association of judges who rule on water law matters; and since 1970, has taught water law and environmental law at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Ron Robie's career has had a major, positive imprint on the management of water in California. Thus, it is fitting that a state water facility be named in his honor as a lasting recognition of his water-related service to California. The Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant, which came into

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being under Ron Robie's "watch" as the Director of Water Resources, would be an appropriate and ideal facility to bear his name.

For all the reasons stated above, I enthusiastically urge the California Water Commission to designate that state water facility as the "Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant."

Thank you and other Commission members for your consideration of this recommendation and request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

cc: John Laird, Secretary of Resources
Arthur G. Scotland