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May 13, 2016

Mr. Ken Levine
Director, Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711

**RE: Sunset Commission Report
Sulphur River Basin Authority**

Dear Mr. Levine:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Sunset review of the Sulphur River Basin Authority (SRBA). We appreciated the opportunity to meet with Sarah Kirkle, Morgan Constantino, and Robert Romig earlier this year during the review process. We clearly recognize the effort put forth by your staff to openly and completely review issues associated with the Sulphur River Basin Authority.

I have been asked to comment on the draft Sunset Commission Staff Report on behalf of the agencies under contract with the Sulphur River Basin Authority to study water resources development in the Sulphur River basin: Tarrant Regional Water District, North Texas Municipal Water District, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, City of Dallas, and City of Irving.

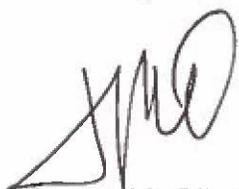
River Authorities in Texas have been effective in developing and conserving the water resources required to provide for citizens' basic needs and to sustain the State's vast and healthy economy. We support SRBA's mission to become a strong, respected river authority that identifies water resource needs within the Sulphur River basin, works effectively with local interests in meeting those needs, and protects the State's interests. To appropriately fulfill that mission, SRBA must succeed in endeavors to conserve and develop the largest remaining undeveloped water resources in the State of Texas for both local and State-wide purposes. We concur with the Sunset Commission finding that the "state needs a basin-wide entity to help balance the development and conservation efforts in the Sulphur River Basin..."

The Sunset Commission staff clearly understand the contentious environment in which SRBA exists. This contentiousness will not be eliminated by the Sunset Commission recommendations because, as stated in the report, "some stakeholders appear largely driven by their own financial motivations or wishes to control future water rights and have become heavy contributors to the lack of regional and interregional cooperation needed to meet the state's water needs." The SRBA will be able to fulfill its mission only if board members exercise leadership and work with other water resource groups in the region to develop and conserve water resources in the Sulphur River

Basin - - in the best interest of the State and its people. SRBA must not be unduly influenced by or represented by private interests. Water resources belong to the State of Texas, and basin-wide authorities are tasked with developing these resources on behalf of or in partnership with the State, while representing local interests effectively and accommodating local participation.

Again, on behalf of the sponsoring agencies working with the SRBA, I would like to express our appreciation for this opportunity to provide comments as interested stakeholders. Each agency listed above is supportive of positive measures to help SRBA become effective in its vital mission. Further, each agency reserves the right to make additional comments and recommendations at the upcoming public meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMO', written over a faint, illegible stamp.

James M. Oliver
General Manager