



December 6, 2016

Dear Member of the California Congressional Delegation,

On December 5, 2016, the House and Senate reached an agreement on a final Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), now called the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, or WIIN (S. 612). This package includes the revitalization of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program without the use of earmarks. Title XVI program is a crucial program for addressing present and future drought conditions with a demonstrated record of success in developing new, safe and reliable water supplies throughout the West. It is the only Federal program specifically designed to fund water recycling, brackish, desalination and impaired groundwater projects. We strongly support this provision of the bill.

Since it was first authorized in 1992, 53 Title XVI projects have added hundreds of thousands of acre-feet to the West's water supply every year. In 2014 alone, Title XVI projects added nearly 400,000 acre-feet of safe and reliable new water to the dwindling water supplies in the West. Unfortunately, due to the Congressional earmark ban, new projects currently cannot be authorized or funded under Title XVI. Revitalizing and revamping Title XVI into a competitive grant program, as it would with enactment of WIIN (S. 612), would allow the Federal government to once again help water agencies reclaim hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water to counteract the effects of the devastating drought in the Western United States.

Not only does this piece of legislation reaffirm a commitment to environmentally responsible development, it also provides needed economic stimulus for the nation's cities and water agencies to continue their ingenuity and rebuild the country's infrastructure. This bill represents a seminal piece of legislation protecting key facets of America's water infrastructure, supply and waterways while insuring that important water-related projects are developed, protected and strengthened.

Thank you for your time. Please contact my office if you need any more information.

Sincerely,

Melissa Meeker
Executive Director