



1199 North Fairfax St, Suite 900 • Alexandria, VA 22314

October 29, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Bishop, and Ranking Member Grijalva:

The undersigned organizations and utilities are writing to urge your support for the reauthorization of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse competitive grant program authorized in the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act (Title XVI-WIIN).

Title XVI is the only federal program focused on funding water recycling projects in the western states, and with enactment of the FY 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, the \$50 million authorization for Title-WIIN has been reached. Therefore, it is critical to reauthorize Title XVI-WIIN to support the continued development of water reuse in the West and the development of drought-proof water supplies.

Since Title XVI's inception in 1992, Congress has authorized 53 Title XVI recycling projects producing more than 400,000 acre-feet of drought-resistant water supply. To date, Congress has appropriated approximately \$672 million in federal funding which has been leveraged with non-federal funding to implement more than \$3.3 billion in water reuse improvements – a nearly 5:1 leverage ratio. However, as no new projects had been authorized by Congress since 2009, the 2016 WIIN Act created a mechanism to continue support for Western water reuse projects by establishing a competitive grant program within Title XVI, enabling new projects to be eligible for federal assistance.

There are currently 44 Title XVI-WIIN eligible projects awaiting assistance, with a total of \$528 million in eligible federal cost-share, this list will only grow as more projects become eligible. To address the federal cost-share demand, we urge that Title XVI-WIIN be reauthorized at \$250 million over five years, paid for by deauthorizing "inactive" Title XVI projects following a similar deauthorization process Congress enacted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Currently, the federal cost-share for projects that have never received funding or have not received funding in the past ten years is approximately \$200 million. Under the proposal, sponsors of projects listed for deauthorization would have a transparent and public process to submit

Title XVI Stakeholder Support Letter
Page 2

information demonstrating the project's active status to the Bureau of Reclamation with a request to revoke the deauthorization.

Clean and reliable water is the backbone of a community's health and economy. Water reuse provides a sustainable and secure water supply for communities, increasingly important in the face of more frequent and severe droughts and changing hydrologic conditions throughout the West.

We are also aware that the WIIN 2016 authorizations for the desalination program (\$30 million), and western water storage funds (\$335 million) have also expired with the enactment of the FY 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations measure. We support the reauthorization of these programs as water storage and desalination projects work in tandem with water recycling projects to ensure that communities across the West have safe, secure, and sustainable water supplies.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Patricia Sinicropi, WateReuse Association at psinicropi@watereuse.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Public Works Association (APWA)
American Water Works Association (AWWA)
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
National Rural Water Association (NRWA)
Rural Community Assistance Partnership Inc. (RCAP)
Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA)
WateReuse Association
Water Environment Federation (WEF)
Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS)
Western Recycled Water Coalition (WRWC)

State and Regional NGOs

WateReuse Arizona
WateReuse California
WateReuse Colorado
WateReuse Nevada
WateReuse Pacific Northwest (PNW)
WateReuse Texas
California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA)

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)

Arizona Agencies

Apache Junction Water District
City of Tucson Water Department - Tucson Water
Flagstaff Water Services
Scottsdale Water

California Agencies

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Zone 7
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
City of Corona
City of Escondido, Utilities Department
City of Modesto
City of Pasadena
City of Pismo Beach
City of Pleasanton
City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
Delta Diablo
Dublin San Ramon Services District
Eastern Municipal Water District
El Toro Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA)
Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD)
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Title XVI Stakeholder Support Letter

Page 3

Leucadia Wastewater District
Marina Coast Water District
Mesa Water District
Monterey One Water
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Orange County Water District
Otay Water District
Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
San Diego County Water Authority
San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Scotts Valley Water District
Santa Clarita Water (SCV Water)
Town of Marana Water Utilities Association
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority
(VWVRA)

Colorado Agencies

Arapahoe County Water & Wastewater Authority
(ACWWA)
Denver Water

Nevada Agencies

City of Henderson - Utility Services

City of North Las Vegas Utilities Department
Clark County Water Reclamation District
Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)

New Mexico Agencies

Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
City of Rio Rancho

Oklahoma Agencies

City of Norman

Oregon Agencies

Clean Water Services

Texas Agencies

City of San Marcos
City of Wichita Falls
El Paso Water Utilities
Gulf Coast Authority (GCA)
McAllen Public Utility (MPU)
Upper Trinity Regional Water District

Utah Agencies

South Jordan City

Washington Agencies

King County, Wastewater Treatment Division

CC: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representative
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator