

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
House Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
House Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chairwoman Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson:

The undersigned organizations write to highlight the importance of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Competitive Grants Program, and to urge you to provide \$100 million for the program in FY 2020. The Title XVI program is the only federal program with water reuse as its sole focus.

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.

In 2016, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act established a mechanism, colloquially known as Title XVI-WIIN, to enable new projects to apply for competitive grants within Title XVI. Due to the popularity of Title XVI-WIIN in its first few years, the program now has a large and growing backlog equal to \$528 million in federal cost share for eligible projects, and demand is expected to grow as more projects become eligible.

Given the critical role that water recycling will play in future water management, and given the overwhelming demand for Title XVI-WIIN projects across the West, we urge you to include \$100 million for this program in Energy and Water appropriations legislation for FY 2020.

In addition to funding the Title XVI-WIIN program, we ask for your support in securing \$20 million for USBR's Desalination and Water Purification Program in FY 2020. The Desalination Program provides funding for projects in Reclamation states that involve ocean or brackish water desalination. In the arid West, desalination is an important tool that can help communities increase their water supply. Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

American Membrane Technology Association
American Public Works Association
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of California Water Agencies

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Association of Regional Water Organizations
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Water Resources Association
Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc.
US Water Alliance

WaterReuse Association
Water Environment Federation
Western Urban Water Coalition