



September 28, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Denham  
The Honorable John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Denham and Garamendi:

On behalf of the above organizations dedicated to improved water quality, we write in strong support of legislation that you recently sponsored and cosponsored to modernize National Permit Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit terms under the Clean Water Act. This is a commonsense approach to provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or a delegated state with the discretionary authority to consider providing a permit term of up to ten years. We urge expeditious consideration of this legislation prior to the conclusion of the 115<sup>TH</sup> Congress.

Today's water quality needs are becoming more complex as public wastewater agencies continually face new challenges to ensuring improved water quality and a safe and reliable water supply. Meeting these challenges requires innovative approaches. Modern wastewater treatment often involves substantial investment of capital with construction terms that stretch out beyond the existing five-year permit term

The Honorable Jeff Denham  
The Honorable John Garamendi  
September 28, 2018

horizon. In some cases, a project construction timeline for clean water infrastructure can extend more than a decade as public agencies try to meet the requirements of extensive environmental reviews, project design, scheduling, and labor and construction agreements. The current NPDES permit term of five years simply does not align with today's water infrastructure reality.

Extending the NPDES permit terms to "not exceeding ten years" would better reflect today's clean water infrastructure reality. Extending permit terms would:

- Enhance the planning and efficiency of facility permitting;
- Give agencies the necessary time to comply with existing regulatory requirements prior to the imposition of new mandates, allowing agencies to better plan and construct new technologies and facilities; and
- Allows states to direct more resources to nonpoint and watershed-based solutions.

At the same time, existing permit reopener provisions would allow for new conditions to be inserted where needed prior to permit expiration and protects the public's involvement in the permitting process.

Thank you again for your support on this important issue that is affecting the nation's public water and wastewater agencies.

Sincerely yours,

Association of California Water Agencies  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
WaterReuse Association  
Water Environment Federation