

June 14, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Gardner:

The undersigned organizations, companies, municipalities, and water districts are writing to express our support for the Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act, which includes a 5-year, \$100 million reauthorization of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse competitive grant program, originally authorized in the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act (Title XVI-WIIN). In addition to the key Title XVI-WIIN Competitive Grant Program, the legislation includes \$60 million for desalination, an additional funding for surface and groundwater storage, and a new low-interest loan program for the financing of a range of water infrastructure projects.

We greatly appreciate the bipartisan nature of this bill and the westwide sweep of the projects and programs to help build drought resiliency. We are anxious to work with you during the process to see the bill amended to further increase the authorization level for the Title XVI-WIIN program, in order to meet the driving need to recycle and reuse our precious water supply.

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 XVI-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. Another important tool in the Western water management toolbox is the Desalination Program, which 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. The Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act provides critical funding for this program.

Since Title XVI began 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 55 Title XVI-WIIN eligible projects awaiting assistance, with a total of more than \$550 million in eligible federal cost-share, and this list will only grow as

more projects become eligible. The need is clearly there as demonstrated by the range of communities who have applied for and are awaiting funding to drought-proof their communities' future.

A clean and reliable water supply is the foundation of a community's health, economy, and sustainability. Water reuse provides a drought-proof 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 applaud you for your vision and your efforts in addressing one of our greatest challenges.

We are excited to work with you to bring this bill forward, hopefully with more robust funding for the successful Title XVI-WIIN program. 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](mailto:psinicropi@watereuse.org).

Sincerely,

Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
American Public Works Association  
Arcadis  
Association of California Water Agencies  
Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers  
Blackwater Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
Brandt Water Strategies  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
Carollo  
Central Basin Municipal Water District  
City of Escondido, California  
City of Norman, Oklahoma  
City of Quincy, Washington  
City of Riverside, California  
City of Rio Rancho, California  
City of Safford, Arizona  
City of Springfield, Oregon  
Contra Costa Water District  
Denver Urban Gardens  
Dublin San Ramon Services District  
Eastern Municipal Water District  
El Paso Water  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Environmental Management Systems Inc.  
Epic CleanTec  
Garver  
Gulf Coast Authority  
INTERA Incorporated

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Leucadia Wastewater District  
Marina Coast Water District  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Water Research Institute  
Oklahoma Water Environment Association  
Olivenhain Municipal Water District  
Orange County Water District  
Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency  
Palmdale Water District  
Pima County, Arizona  
Project WET Foundation  
Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District  
San Elijo Joint Powers Authority  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Scotts Valley Water District  
Silverdale Water District  
Soquel Creek Water District  
Tanner Pacific, Inc.  
Truckee Meadows Water Authority  
Vallecitos Water District  
Walnut Valley Water District  
Warner and Associates  
WaterReuse Association  
Water Replenishment District of Southern California  
Weil Aquatronics, Inc.  
West Basin Municipal Water District