February 21, 2020

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

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Congressman Calvert,

In 2016, due to your steadfast efforts, Congress established a competitive grant program within the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program to provide federal cost-share grant funding for water recycling projects in the arid West. As you know, Title XVI is the only active federal program with a focus on water recycling. We write today to thank you for your support for the program, and to ask you to help secure increased funding for the Title XVI-WIIN program in FY 2021.

Water projects funded through the Title XVI program have been used to increase the supply of drinking water, generate sustainable irrigation water, and help industries expand and create jobs, among other regionally important economic purposes. The program is not limited to the reuse of municipal wastewater—it also helps communities identify beneficial uses for industrial, agricultural, and domestic wastewater, as well as impaired ground and surface water.

There are currently 56 Title XVI-WIIN eligible projects awaiting assistance, with a total of more than $700 million in eligible federal cost-share. This list will only grow as more projects become eligible. Title XVI-WIIN is an integral part of the federal funding partnership with local communities throughout the West to ensure they have safe and sustainable water supplies to meet demand. This is especially true in California, which has received the vast majority of Title XVI funding.

Given the critical role water reuse plays in California’s future water management, and given the overwhelming demand for Title XVI-WIIN projects across the West, we respectfully request your assistance in securing at least $50 million for this program in FY 2021.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer West at jwest@watereuse.org.

Sincerely,

Association of California Water Agencies
Black Water Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Carollo Engineers
Carpentaria Valley Water District
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
City of Modesto
City of Palo Alto
City of Pismo Beach
City of Roseville
City of San Diego
City of Santa Cruz Water Department
Eastern Municipal Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Epic CleanTec
Goleta Sanitary District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Irvine Ranch Water District
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Long Beach Water Department
Mesa Water District
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Monterey One Water
Novato Sanitary District
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Orange County Sanitation District
Orange County Water District
Otay Water District
Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Rancho Murieta CSD
Riverside Public Utilities
Rowland Water District
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
San Diego County Water Authority
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Scotts Valley Water District
Silicon Valley Clean Water
Soquel Creek Water District
Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works
Tanner Pacific, Inc.
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Valley Water
WateReuse Association
WateReuse California
Water Replenishment District of Southern California
West Bay Sanitary District
Western Municipal Water District
Yosemite Vista Estates Mutual Wastewater Agency
Yucaipa Valley Water District