April 14, 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 2022.

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 dozens of 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 strongly urge you to provide no less than $50 million for this program in FY 2022.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Greg Fogel at gfogel@watereuse.org.

Sincerely,
San Simeon Community Services District
Santa Margarita Water District
Scotts Valley Water District
Soquel Creek Water District
Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works
Tetra Tech
Valley Water
West Bay Sanitary District’s Bayfront Recycled Water Project
Western Municipal Water District
Woodard & Curran