

December 10, 2025

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chair, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chair, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Kennedy, Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Murray and Ranking Member Kaptur:

On behalf of the undersigned communities, utilities, businesses, and organizations, **we request that final FY 2026 appropriations legislation include the House funding level of \$41 million for the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Grants Program, including no less than \$30 million for projects as authorized by section 4009(c) of Public Law 114-322.**

In addition to increasing funding for the Title XVI Program, the House Energy and Water Development (EWD) Appropriations bill extends the program's authority through December 2026. Without this change, Reclamation will be unable to fund new projects under section 4009(c) of Public Law 114-322 using annually appropriated funding. **We therefore recommend that final FY 2026 appropriations legislation include House EWD Appropriations language extending authority for the Title XVI-WIIN Program.**

The Title XVI Water Reuse Grants Program provides federal cost share for water recycling projects in 17 Western states and Hawaii. The program has helped communities across the West build drought resilience, keep nutrients and other pollutants out of waterways, save billions of dollars relative to importing water, and grow their economies. It is a key economic and water resource management tool.

As you know, the Title XVI program has two components—a competitive grants component known as WIIN Title XVI, and a congressionally directed spending component whereby projects are individually authorized and funded by Congress. While Title XVI competitive grants have become the core of the program since the enactment of the WIIN Act in 2016, both components continue to provide critical funding for water recycling programs across the West.

Among active eligible WIIN-Title XVI projects, the remaining federal cost-share backlog after FY 2025 exceeds \$382 million, and Reclamation typically receives 10 new completed feasibility studies each year. As we approach the expiration of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Congress must begin to increase annual appropriations for the Title XVI-WIIN program. Previous years have shown that \$20 million per year is woefully insufficient to meet the annual demand for Title XVI-WIIN funding from eligible entities.

With respect to individually authorized Title XVI projects, colloquially known as the “legacy program,” **seven congressionally authorized projects have requested funding in the last five years. Six of these have yet to meet their funding caps, for a total of \$37,631,656 in remaining federal cost-share.** These communities have plans in place with work being done to design, build, test and deploy important water recycling projects. Congress must not leave them high and dry as they request funding to complete their projects in the coming years.

The drivers for water reuse are many. In recent years, droughts have brought severe conditions including wildfires, heat waves, severely depleted water sources, and reduced crop production across the country. In addition to combatting supply constraints, communities and industries are also turning to water reuse to meet stringent discharge regulations, reduce pollutant loads to receiving waters, attract businesses and build local economies.

By investing in the Title XVI Water Reuse Grants Program, Congress can give communities the tools and resources they need to protect public health and the environment, support economic development, and create long-term solutions for future generations. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Arizona

City of Cottonwood

City of Flagstaff

City of Phoenix Water Services
Department

Town of Gilbert

Tucson Water

WaterReuse Arizona

California

Association of California Water Agencies

California Association of Sanitation
Agencies

Camrosa Water District

Carpinteria Sanitary District

Carpinteria Valley Water District

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

City of Oceanside

City of Pleasanton
City of Santa Monica
City of Santa Rosa
Cucamonga Valley Water District
Diablo Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Encina Wastewater Authority
Grace Environmental Services
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Irvine Ranch Water District
John Robinson Consulting, Inc.
Jurupa Community Services District
Kjeldsen, Sinnock & Neudeck, Inc.
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Long Beach Utilities
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Monterey One Water
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Orange County Sanitation District
Orange County Water District
Otay Water District

Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Palmdale Water District
Rancho California Water District
Rowland Water District
Sacramento Area Sewer District
San Diego County Water Authority
San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Sonoma Water
Santa Margarita Water District
South Coast Water District
Town of Windsor
Valley Water
Water Replenishment District
WaterReuse California
West Basin Municipal Water District
Western Municipal Water District

Colorado

Burns & McDonnell
Denver Water
Donala Water and Sanitation District
Metro Water Recovery
Plum Creek Water Reclamation District
WaterReuse Colorado

Hawaii

County of Maui
Honolulu Board of Water Supply

Idaho

City of Boise

City of Nampa

Eagle Sewer District

Kansas

City of Garden City

Nevada

Clark County Water Reclamation District

Northern Nevada Water Planning
Commission

Truckee Meadows Water Authority

WaterReuse Nevada

Western Regional Water Commission

New Mexico

Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water
Utility Authority

City of Santa Fe Water

WaterReuse New Mexico

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy
District

City of Guymon

City of Norman

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Oregon

Clean Water Services

Metropolitan Wastewater Management
Commission

South Suburban Sanitary District

Texas

City of Austin

City of Denton

El Paso Water

Gulf Coast Authority

Mustang Special Utility District

North Texas Municipal Water District

Upper Trinity Regional Water District

WaterReuse Texas

Utah

American Fork City

South Jordan City

Timpanogos Special Service District

Washington County Water Conservancy
District

Washington

City of Arlington

Esvelt Environmental Engineering, LLC

King County Wastewater Treatment
Division

WaterReuse Pacific Northwest

National

American Water Works Association

Association of Metropolitan Water
Agencies

Black & Veatch

Epic Cleantec

Geosyntec Consultants

Grundfos

Hazen and Sawyer

INTERA Incorporated

International Association of Plumbing and
Mechanical Officials

KETOS

National Association of Clean Water
Agencies

National Association of Water Companies

National Municipal Stormwater Alliance

National Water Resources Association

Pacific Institute

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

Trussell Technologies

U.S. Water Alliance

Veolia

Water Environment Federation

Water Finance Exchange

WaterFleet

Water Innovation Services

WaterNow Alliance

WateReuse Association

Water Conservation Technologies,
International, Inc.

Water Conservation Services, Inc.

Xylem