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Adam Krantz

March 4, 2016

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT RELIEF ACT PROVISIONS

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), I am writing in support of S. 2533, the “*California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act.*” NACWA represents nearly 300 public wastewater utilities throughout the nation, many of whom provide a source of water for water recycling (also referred to as water reuse) projects nationwide. Thank you for your continued efforts to introduce and seek passage of legislation that will provide long-term investment in water recycling and promote drought resiliency.

The provisions laid out in your bill addressing long-term water supply— including storage, desalination, and recycling— would provide much needed support for significant investments in water infrastructure and could provide important new funding to states beyond California. Our members across the country are investing in water recycling systems that will provide drought-proof, sustainable supplies of water and will contribute to water supply resilience in the face of unpredictable water scarcity events in the future. Funding reuse projects will have a direct, immediate, and significant impact on extending limited water supplies during current drought conditions, improve water supply reliability, enhance national, regional, and local economic development, promote job growth, and address critical backlogged maintenance and rehabilitation activities.

Thank you also for relying on a nationwide recycled water project survey undertaken by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, Association of California Water Agencies, NACWA, WateReuse Association, and Western Recycled Water Coalition to help identify a list of agencies developing recycled water supplies. As the survey indicates, ninety-two agencies in 14 states across the country are developing recycled water projects that will provide over 900,000 acre-feet of additional water

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supply. These public agencies are currently investing in recycled water projects totaling over \$6 billion.

Though much of this work is already underway, almost half of these projects still require some level of federal financial support in order to proceed with construction to deliver benefits. We strongly support your efforts to streamline the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and to increase its funding authorization so that new water recycling projects can seek needed funding to move into construction and develop these drought-tolerant supplies.

The authorization for a loan and loan guarantee program, the Reclamation Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (RIFIA) will also be another important tool to help local entities secure low interest long-term loans to fund water recycling projects and solutions.

As the Western United States continues to experience record-breaking drought conditions, the concern over increased demand for water and the strain on surface and groundwater supplies is front and center for utilities nationwide. Alternative water supplies, like those supported in your draft legislation, provide a long-term sustainable solution.

Thank you for your leadership in drafting legislation that will allow local agencies to partner with federal and state agencies for funding assistance to develop “new” water supplies, and for your recognition of water recycling as a critical component of a sustainable water portfolio. Please contact Kristina Surfus, NACWA’s Legislative Affairs Manager, at ksurfus@nacwa.org if you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Krantz', with a large, sweeping underline.

Adam Krantz
Chief Executive Officer