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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE
METROPOLITAN WATER
DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

February 8, 2016

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

RE: Drought Relief Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) writes to express thanks and support for your efforts to introduce and seek passage of a drought relief act that will provide critical funding for many needed water projects across California. As one of the water recycling project sponsors identified in your draft legislation cited as the "*California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act*", LVMWD provides this letter as a statement of support for your provisions that will enable projects like ours to pursue critically-needed federal funding for construction.

LVMWD also supports your efforts to streamline the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. Many projects have obtained feasibility study approval from the Bureau of Reclamation, but the inability to secure a project authorization has closed the construction funding pathway. Our project seeks to make greater use of recycled water and reduce or eliminate recycled water discharges to the sensitive Malibu Creek Watershed, with the added benefit of reducing the District's reliance upon imported water. Your legislation provides a much-needed fix by eliminating the project authorization obstacle and authorizing additional funds to the program. Combined with additional funding for WaterSMART, the legislation will allow new water recycling projects to seek the funding needed to move a project into construction and develop these drought-tolerant supplies.

As California continues to experience record-breaking drought conditions, increased demand for water, and strain on existing surface and groundwater supplies, alternative water sources like those in your drought relief act provide a long-term sustainable solution that is essential to California's economy. Thank you for your leadership in drafting legislation that will allow local agencies to partner with federal and state agencies for funding assistance in developing sustainable water supplies for California and the nation.

Sincerely,

David W. Pedersen, P.E.
General Manager