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February 5, 2016

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

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT RELIEF ACT

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your continued efforts to introduce and seek passage of a drought relief act. As we enter the fifth year of a severe drought, your legislation will provide critical funding for 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*", we provide this letter as support for your provisions that will allow projects like ours to be eligible to pursue critical federal funding.

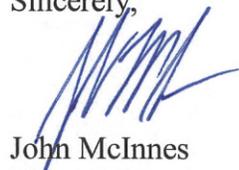
In addition to the funding opportunities included in your bill, we strongly support your efforts to streamline the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. Many projects have obtained feasibility study approval from the Bureau of Reclamation, but the inability to secure a project authorization has shut off the construction funding pathway. Our project to expand the use of our current recycled water plant would make an additional 1,000 AFY of supply available to the community through the use of enhanced treatment, providing a drought-proof supply of water. Depending on the treatment options identified in our feasibility study that is already underway, this water will be able to be put to the best and highest use, including for certain industrial, commercial, and agricultural uses, to replenish the groundwater basin as part of the District's Aquifer Storage and Recovery program, or even potentially for potable reuse options. Your legislation brings much needed funds, and provides an important fix by eliminating the project authorization obstacle. This, plus the additional funding for WaterSMART, will allow new water recycling projects such as ours to seek needed funding to move their project into construction and develop these drought-tolerant supplies.

As California continues to experience record-breaking drought conditions, communities like ours that depend on local surface and groundwater supplies are increasingly reexamining alternative water supplies like those identified in your drought relief act to provide a long-term sustainable solution. Expanding these projects to meet changing needs and conditions is vital to our

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community, and 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 to develop sustainable water supplies for California and the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. McInnes', written over a horizontal line.

John McInnes
General Manager