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February 3, 2016

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein:

This morning the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Board of Directors unanimously approved to support your proposed drought relief legislation. We commend you for your efforts to craft comprehensive drought relief legislation. We look forward to continuing to work with you, our own House Members, Representatives Doug LaMalfa and John Garamendi, Senator Boxer and the balance of the California House Congressional Delegation to secure Senate passage and enactment of final, balanced federal legislation to help address our region and state's water supply-related needs.

Your legislation proposes significant, new federal assistance tools to help local agencies better manage and develop new water supplies critical to a more drought resilient economy. We particularly appreciate that your proposal authorizes new funding and financing opportunities to support needed surface water storage projects, like the Sites Project. In a year like 2015, if Sites were in place, it is estimated there would have been an extra 400,000 acre feet of water in storage north of the Delta to meet the water needs of agriculture and our cities, as well help meet the Central Valley Project obligations for environmental water for fish and waterfowl.

Specifically, we greatly appreciate that your draft bill includes language authorizing the Reclamation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (RIFIA), which would provide local agencies with access to low-cost, long-term financing for much need water infrastructure investments. If a RIFIA loan program were in place today, the program would provide water project sponsors with access to loans with a repayment period of up to 35 years at a rate of approximately 2.9 percent. This would drive down the cost of water by approximately \$131 an acre-foot, dropping the cost from \$571 dollars an acre-foot to \$440 an acre-foot, an overall 23 percent reduction in the cost of water from the project.

We also support the provisions of your legislation that authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in a non-traditional way in non-federal projects like Sites. Under your proposal, the Bureau of Reclamation would be authorized to contribute up to 25 percent of total project costs in non-federal projects like Sites. The Bureau of Reclamation would be able to benefit from a project as a project partner, rather than

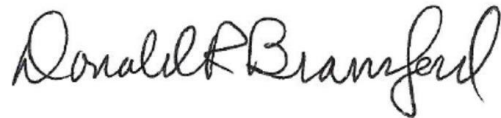
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being saddled with all aspects of a project's development and long-term operation and maintenance. In conjunction with RIFIA, this is the kind of new role the Bureau of Reclamation needs to assume to help accelerate investments in needed water infrastructure west-wide.

Finally, we strongly support your efforts to strengthen the federal commitment to California's system of water rights and priorities. Consistent with Title IV of the draft legislation, which we strongly support, we thank you for including a specific reference to "applicable State water law" in the "Savings Clause," not just a general reference to "applicable State law." Deference to "State water law" has been imbedded in Federal law since at least 1902, and we appreciate that you agree it bears repeating here.

Again, we support Senate passage of your proposed legislation. We believe it represents an important step forward that will provide significant federal assistance to help meet future water needs in California and elsewhere in the west.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald R. Bransford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald R. Bransford  
President

cc: California Congressional Delegation