



IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

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February 2, 2016

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

RE: California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) would like to thank you for authoring the *California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act* and for continuing to engage in discussions surrounding a federal response to California's drought. We are encouraged by your continued pursuit of federal drought relief for California and would like to thank you for specifically including IRWD as an organization able to sponsor water reuse projects under Title XVI.

As you know California is in the fifth year of a severe drought. Communities throughout the state have reduced their water demands to conserve water and have responded to Governor Brown's call to action. But, as with any severe drought, California's economy has been impacted. In 2014 alone, the total statewide economic cost of the drought was \$2.2 billion as calculated by the University of California, Davis. This impact coupled with the effect of the limitations placed on the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, the lack of adequate surface storage within the state, and the negative impact of past federal water management policies makes passing federal drought legislation of the utmost importance. Without some congressional action, the drought is projected to have an even more debilitating impact on our economy and way of life.

IRWD supports your efforts to revitalize Title XVI by converting it to a competitive grant program. Title XVI has played a significant role in the development of water recycling and reuse projects, and it can help ease drought conditions throughout the West by encouraging expansion of water recycling and reuse. The District thanks you for including a Title XVI program in your drought proposal.

IRWD applauds your efforts to put forward a drought response proposal that would encourage the creation of new water supplies and effort to see meaningful drought relief legislation passed. We encourage both the House of Representatives and the Senate to work together to approve legislation that would create long-term solutions to the current water crisis by supporting projects that conserve, recycle, and better manage water supplies. The District looks forward to continuing to work with your offices on these important issues.

Thank you again for specifically naming the District in your bill. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (949) 453-5590 or our federal advocate, Hal Furman, at (202) 737-0700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Cook".

Paul A. Cook
General Manager