



February 9, 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 that will provide critical funding for many 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 to construct our project.

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 is intended to bring over 500 acre feet of water per year to central Redwood City including the heart of our downtown area servicing many new buildings with recycled water for toilet flushing and other uses. Your legislation provides a much needed fix by eliminating the project authorization obstacle and authorizing additional funds to the program. This, plus the additional funding for WaterSMART, will allow new water recycling projects 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, increased demand for water, and strain on existing surface and groundwater supplies, alternative water supplies 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 to develop sustainable water supplies for California and the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ramana'.

Ramana Chinnakotla
Director of Public Works Services