



February 3, 2016

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

Subject: Support for the Drought Relief Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, a partner in the Pure Water Monterey advanced water purification project, I am writing to express the District's strong support for your drought relief legislation. The District thanks you for your efforts to provide meaningful solutions to all California's diverse water users and strongly supports the opportunities for federal assistance found in your proposed drought relief legislation.

New federally-backed tools are desperately needed to help local agencies advance critically important water supply projects, including water reuse and recycling projects like Pure Water Monterey, that can create more drought resilient water supply across the West. Specifically, the District enthusiastically supports the provisions of your legislation that seek to: (1) authorize the Reclamation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (RIFIA), a new, innovative, federally-backed, low-interest, long-term loan program through the Bureau of Reclamation; (2) expand the WaterSMART program to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to use this highly successful program to provide a more robust level of competitive cost-shared partnerships for a wide range of water supply and water management projects, including small-scale storage, conveyance, and integrated regional water management and recycling; and (3) reform of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI water recycling and reuse program to allow unauthorized Title XVI projects to compete for construction assistance under the program.

The Pure Water Monterey Project is the first to recycle agricultural irrigation water, storm water, and agricultural processing water in addition to domestic wastewater. We are hopeful that the project can be a flagship project demonstrating the benefits of your proposed bill.

In combination, these new tools will significantly accelerate non-federal investments in much needed water supply infrastructure in California and the West. We support your proposed legislation and believe it represents an important step forward. Thank you for your leadership in developing legislation that will allow local government to partner with federal agencies for funding assistance for sustainable water supplies.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J. Stoldt". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title.

David J. Stoldt
General Manager

cc: Congressman Sam Farr
Ken Rooney
John Watts
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency