April 24, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Calvert:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies writes in support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Revolving Loan Fund Program (SRF). For 60 years, CASA has been the leading voice for California’s public wastewater agencies on regulatory, legislative and legal issues.

As you and your colleagues consider Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 funding levels for this vital water infrastructure program, we strongly request that you provide a minimum of $2.8 billion to the Clean Water SRF, which represents a doubling of the FY 2016 Clean Water SRF allocation. We note that the Administration is requesting a total of $2.3 billion to support both the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRFs. This level of funding would be wholly insufficient to support the escalating demand in California for public water infrastructure needs.

The most recent USEPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (attached) illustrates how vital it is to fund the Clean Water SRF program. According to the report, the financial burden to simply meet water quality and water-related public health goals of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in California was in excess of $26 billion in 2012. Due to drought conditions and other strains on our wastewater systems, that figure has only gone up over the last 5 years. CASA echoes the sentiments expressed by the large bipartisan group of Congressional representatives led by Representatives John Katko (R-NY) and Louise Slaughter (D-NY) in their March 29, 2017 letter to your office.

The SRF program plays a critical role in ensuring communities have affordable financing for wastewater infrastructure improvements, and increased funding of the program represents an expeditious and reasonable approach as Congress considers water infrastructure policy in the coming months. We urge you to maintain a strong federal commitment to clean water infrastructure needs as part of any final Fiscal Year 2018 budget. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead to advance sustainable water infrastructure assistance.

Sincerely,

Roberta L. Larson
Executive Director