May 18, 2016

California Congressional Delegation  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) writes in strong support of the Water Recycling Acceleration Act of 2015 (H.R. 2993), and we request that you consider cosponsoring this legislation. For 60 years, CASA has been the leading voice for public wastewater agencies on regulatory, legislative and legal issues, representing 90% of the state. We are an association of local agencies, engaged in advancing the recycling of wastewater into usable water, generation of renewable energy, and other valuable resources.

H.R. 2993 offers an effective policy response to address our state's scarce water supply and the need to develop new ways to deliver sustainable water supplies. This bill would eliminate the needless delays and backlog associated with the current water recycling project approval process by accelerating project review and approval for funding under certain circumstances. Of specific note are several provisions in the bill, which if enacted, would lead to an improved quality of life for our communities by facilitating projects that improve resource flexibility, reduce impacts to environmental resources, and have multiple co-benefits.

This bill also encourages projects that are regional in nature and have multiple. CASA believes that a new approach is needed to fund water-recycling projects that can produce sustainable and safe water supplies.

In addition, H.R. 2993 would facilitate targeted assistance to achieve maximum benefits by establishing a series of criteria that address the water scarcity challenges of today. This would lead to projects that deliver multiple benefits to the greatest degree possible. The criteria would also ensure that when a project is selected to proceed to construction, Congress would be assured that the investment of federal resources would enjoy broad support from stakeholders and that the project has regional benefits.

We thank you for your consideration and hope you will cosponsor this important legislation. If we can provide any further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Roberta L. Larson  
Executive Director