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 PROVISIONS

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your continued efforts to draft and seek passage of legislation that will provide drought relief for California, and long-term investment in drought resiliency throughout the Western United States. On behalf of the undersigned associations, we extend our support for provisions in your recent draft legislation, cited as the “California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act” that will provide critical funding opportunities for many water projects.

Thank you also for including a list of agencies in California that are developing recycled water supplies as identified in the nationwide recycled water project survey undertaken by the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, Association of California Water Agencies, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, WateReuse Association, and Western Recycled Water Coalition. As addressed in your draft, these projects plus many others identified in California will be capable of producing well over one-million acre feet of water annually once constructed. We strongly support your efforts to streamline the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and to increase funding authorization so that new water recycling projects can 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 surface and groundwater supplies, alternative water supplies like those in your drought relief act provide a long-term sustainable solution. We look forward to working with you on a bill that can be approved by congress, signed by the President and provide much needed drought relief.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring 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.
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Sincerely,

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