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# SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION

November 22, 2017

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
 1610 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

Attention: Joe Sheehy

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

I am writing in support of your efforts as a Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and as the Ranking Democrat on its Subcommittee on Water and Environment to draft and pass a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act [WRDA] during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Thank you for the role you have played in helping to return WRDA authorization bills to their traditional two year cycle as evidenced by the passage of WRDA-14 and most recently the passage of the WIIN act in December 2016. The water resources needs of the nation are evolving and growing ever more complex so bi-annual WRDA bills are essential.

The San Gabriel Valley Water Association appreciates and values your support through the WRDA process for regional water priorities throughout Southern California. We ask that this continue as you and the Committee began to draft WRDA-2018 legislation. This letter highlights areas that you are already in support of but which require your continued attention in the next WRDA bill. We also wish to request your support for the inclusion of an issue that was a part of the Senate version of the WIIN Act but was not included in the final version of the bill.

Thank you for Section 1115 of the WIIN Act that addresses reservoir sediment and was added to the bill through your leadership and support. Section 1115 authorizes the creation of a national demonstration program to remove sediment with the goal of restoring the water storage capacity of reservoirs. As you know, this Section is highly relevant to the situation at Santa Fe Dam where sediment accumulation has reduced the ability of the LA County Flood Control District to detain water after flood and rain events. If sediment can be removed more water can be retained behind Santa Fe Dam. This water can be released slowly allowing for the maximum recharge of the San Gabriel Aquifer. We request that you continue to encourage the Corps of Engineers to implement Section 1115 and that you do so through an appropriate provision in WRDA-2018.

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Adan Ortega Associates  
 Aqua Capital Management LP  
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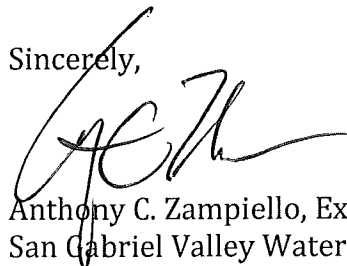
We also deeply appreciate your including Section 1304, "Los Angeles County Drainage Area" in the WIIN Act. This provision provides that the Corps "integrate and incorporate into the [Corps dams in LA County] project seasonable operation for water conservation and water supply." Once again we believe that it is necessary for you to include a provision in the WRDA-2018 bill taking note of Section 1304 and instructing the Corps to continue with implementing this important provision. Dams like the Santa Fe Dam and the Whittier Narrows Dam were designed for flood control purposes but in the 21<sup>st</sup> century they can provide a valuable tool for groundwater recharge. We urge you to do everything in your power to see that this provision is fully carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) was not retained in the final version of last year's WIIN bill that was signed into law. We believe that WRDA-2018 provides a fresh opportunity for the Congress to recognize this valuable tool for local governments. Our local communities in the San Gabriel Valley face huge costs of compliance with regard to the management and permitting of storm water flows. We know that you share this concern because you are a co-sponsor of H.R. 2355, "the Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act." This legislation, along with H.R. 465, "the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2017" and S. 692, also titled "the Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act" address the concepts which we hope you will be able to include in the next WRDA bill.

This includes a trigger for the USEPA to enter into discussions with local governments when 20% of a community's population spends more than 2% of its income on water and wastewater costs. When this occurs, a city is eligible to work with EPA to develop a comprehensive or integrated plan that prioritizes spending on requirements that protect the public health and environment. We also support the provision in H.R. 465 that establishes a test that Clean Water Act requirements are both technically achievable and economically affordable. We request that the House version of the next WRDA bill include IRP provisions that ensure that affordability triggers are in place so that communities can utilize Integrated Resources Planning.

In closing we salute you for all your years of advocacy on behalf of our national, regional, and local water resources infrastructure. Thank you for your continued support as the Congress continues to work on a WRDA reauthorization in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Anthony C. Zampiendo, Executive Secretary  
San Gabriel Valley Water Association