

## EXHIBIT 6-C

Other Legislative Activities in 2025





VIA EMAIL

October 3, 2025

Lt. Colonel Virginia R. Brickner  
Commander  
San Francisco District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
450 Golden Gate Ave, 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Request Support Under Section 219/Environmental Infrastructure for the  
*Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Program*

Dear Commander Brickner:

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (the District) requests assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the *Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Program* in the Monterey Peninsula, California, which the Corps is authorized to support under section 8375(a)(292) of Public Law 117-263 (includes the Water Resources Development Act of 2022) and the State of California's Environmental Infrastructure authority, Section 5039 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-114).

Specifically, MPWMD would like to explore opportunities to partner with the Corps on a portfolio of projects we have grouped together under the *Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Program*. Water recycling and recharging the region's sole groundwater basin are critical for our water supply security. Water recycling via the Pure Water Monterey indirect potable reuse project will provide 50-60% of the region's potable water supply beginning in 2025; it previously served over 1/3 of the region's water supply. There are multiple locations throughout the region where runoff discharges to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary during wet and dry times. Diverting the untreated runoff to the sanitary sewer provides additional source water for water recycling. A suite of small diversion and recharge projects have been selected for development to augment existing sources of supply.

The first project would divert flows from Monterey's downtown tunnel and Olivier Street storm drain gravity pipe to the sanitary sewer for recycling instead of discharging it untreated into Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A flow diversion structure will redirect dry weather flows from a 60-inch storm drain system on Olivier Street to a 24- inch sanitary sewer main behind the Custom House Museum via a new pipe. The new pipe will be located in the right-of-way along Olivier Street and convey flows to connect with the sanitary sewer main by gravity. The project would remove dry weather flows that are currently discharged untreated to Monterey Bay, thereby partially restoring natural drainage patterns and treating any urban pollutants

associated with the diverted flows. The project is estimated to achieve from 10 to 20 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water supply from the approximately 150-acre tributary drainage area.

Cost: The District is seeking additional construction assistance of \$300,000. To date, project has secured \$725,000 (District grant of \$25,000; State Department of Water Resources grant of \$500,000; \$200,000 local funding)

The District also seeks funding for the design of other Diversion and Recycling Projects:

City of Monterey Coast Guard Pier Diversion: Runoff from the Coast Guard Pier will be diverted to the water reclamation plant for recycling. Storage may be required as part of the project.

City of Monterey San Carlos Beach Diversion Storage: Underground storage could be constructed below the lawns next to San Carlos beach. The Reeside wastewater pump station is adjacent to the lawns and could convey stored water to the water reclamation plant for recycling.

City of Seaside Laguna Grande Wells' Diversion: The City of Seaside owns two wells, one at Laguna Grande Park and one near Chili's Grill. The Chili's well is artesian and was capped due to high sulfur. The Laguna Grande well is used for irrigation. Neither well provides potable water. The well water could be pumped to the sanitary sewer in the summer when source water is most needed for recycling. Wells could be pumped at night when sewer flows and power cost is lower.

City of Seaside Stormwater Capture near Echo Avenue in Seaside: Urban surface water runoff would be diverted to underground infiltration chambers. Diversion to underground storage. Water would infiltrate into the groundwater basin.

City of Del Rey Oaks Stormwater Capture: The proposed Del Rey Oaks Urban Diversion Project consists of two sites: Natural springs located on Rosita Road and Calle de Oaks that have been observed to maintain continuous flow throughout the year, including during recent drought years. Rosita Road flow currently drains from a natural spring, down the curb to a pipe and into Canyon Del Rey Creek. Similarly, the Calle de Oaks spring is diverted through a pipe and deposited into the municipal separate storm sewer system where it is directed to Canyon Del Rey Creek. A sanitary sewer line runs through the center of both Rosita Road and Calle de Oaks. The project envisions depositing the flow directly into the sanitary sewer line to be fed into the Pure Water Monterey project during the dry season and between storms throughout the wet season.

Naval Postgraduate School Del Monte Lake Stormwater: Stormwater flows from the Del Monte Lake to the ocean. Prior to storms, the top 4 feet of the lake could be pumped to the Pure Water Monterey project. With a surface area of 11 acres, approximately 44 AF could be diverted. Diversion could be available November to March when the Monterey Pines Golf Club does not require water from Del Monte Lake. There have been no observed migratory fish nor aquatic species. There is an existing wastewater pump station in proximity.

Cost: Seeking design assistance of \$350,000.

Lt. Colonel Brickner

Page 3 of 3

October 3, 2025

To summarize, the District is seeking \$750,000 as follows:

	Federal <u>Share</u>	Total <u>Cost</u>
Construction assistance, Olivier Street project	\$300,000	\$1,025,000
Design assistance, up to 6 additional projects	\$350,000	\$500,000
Development of Project Partnership Agreement	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$135,000</u>
	\$750,000	\$1,660,000

The proposed projects under the *Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Program* meet the eligibility criteria of both section 8375(a)(292) of Public Law 117-263 and Section 5039 of P.L. 110-114, both of which authorize the Corps to assist non-Federal interests such as the District in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Water-related environmental infrastructure improvements under both authorities can, as you know, include water and wastewater treatment and related facilities, including water supply facilities. And, as you are also aware, the Corps may provide assistance to support all aspects of project development and implementation under these two authorities, including project planning, design, and construction.

The District understands the cost share for the non-Federal interest shall not be less than 25 percent. We are aware that the non-Federal sponsor is responsible for supplying all lands, easements, rights-of-ways, relocations and disposal areas (LERRD) necessary for construction and subsequent operation and maintenance of the project. We also understand as the non-Federal sponsor, the District is responsible for 100 percent of the cost to operate, maintain, repair, replace, or rehabilitate the completed project(s).

This letter constitutes an expression of intent and not a contractual obligation. We understand that the non-Federal interest or the Corps may opt to discontinue the project development process prior to the execution of the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA), which occurs at the end of the Planning, Design, and Analysis, prior to award of a construction contract.

If you need additional information, please contact me at (831) 658-5651. We look forward to working with the Corps on this portfolio of projects.

Sincerely,



David J. Stoldt  
General Manager

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District





September 18, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman, House Ways & Means  
Committee  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member, House Ways & Means  
Committee  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crapo, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Wyden, and Ranking Member Neal:

On behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), I am writing to express our strong support for the **Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act (S. 857) & (H.R. 1871)**. The bipartisan bills offer an opportunity to address a longstanding inequity in the tax code for municipal water managers while making it easier and more affordable for homeowners to engage in water conservation efforts. We urge you to include this critical legislation in a potential tax package later this year.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) was formed to accomplish the following objectives: Augment the water supply through integrated management of ground and surface water; Promote water conservation and the efficient use of water; Advance water reuse and reclamation of storm and wastewater; and Foster the scenic values, environmental qualities, native vegetation, fish and wildlife, and recreation on the Monterey Peninsula and in the Carmel River Basin.

Currently, rebates for energy-efficient upgrades (e.g., windows or solar panels) are tax-exempt under Section 136, similar water-related rebates are taxable. This discourages participation in these conservation programs. The Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from income any rebates provided by public utilities or local

governments for water conservation, stormwater management, or wastewater efficiency measures by:

- Expanding Section 136 to cover rebates for water conservation, stormwater, and wastewater measures.
- Providing clear definitions of eligible activities.
- Ensuring fairness between water and energy conservation tax policy.

This reform is especially timely as many states and localities offer turf replacement programs, appliance upgrade rebates, and similar measures aimed at reducing demand on limited water resources.

Thank you for your consideration. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as we seek to work with our community partners to help build a more sustainable and resilient future for the residents of Monterey Peninsula.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J. Stoldt". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "D" and a cursive "Stoldt".

David J. Stoldt  
General Manager

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District





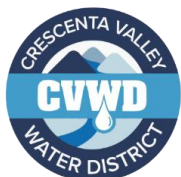
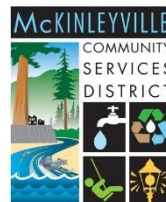
LEAGUE OF  
CALIFORNIA  
CITIES



CSDA



American Water Works Association  
California-Nevada Section



SACRAMENTO 980 9th Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 441-4545  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 357, Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 434-4760

[www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com)

September 17, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 454 (McNerney) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for and respectfully request your signature on SB 454. This bill would establish a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund to help local public agencies leverage funding to pay for PFAS remediation and treatment in drinking water and wastewater.

Public water agencies are responsible for delivering safe, clean, and affordable drinking water throughout California. To fulfill that responsibility, public water agencies must comply with federal and state drinking water standards, including PFAS drinking water standards. Drinking water standards can have significant financial impacts on public water agencies that are passed on to ratepayers and ultimately, impact water affordability. This bill, which would become operative upon appropriation by the Legislature, would create a much-needed funding tool intended to leverage funds designated for PFAS remediation and treatment and continuously appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board to help public water agencies comply with PFAS drinking water standards, address infrastructure costs associated with treating for PFAS, and ensure the availability of safe and affordable drinking water supplies for their communities.

For these reasons, ACWA, Cal Cities, and the undersigned organizations strongly support and respectfully request your signature on SB 454. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Chelsea Haines at [chelseah@acwa.com](mailto:chelseah@acwa.com) or Melissa Sparks-Kranz at [msparkskranz@calcities.org](mailto:msparkskranz@calcities.org).

Sincerely,

Chelsea Haines  
State Regulatory Director  
Association of California Water Agencies

Andrea Abergel  
Director of Water  
California Municipal Utilities Association

Melissa Sparks-Kranz  
Legislative Advocate  
League of California Cities

Anjanette Shadley  
Assistant General Manager  
Western Canal Water District

Aaron Avery  
Director of State Legislative Affairs  
California Special Districts Association

Brian Olney  
General Manager  
Helix Water District

Caity Maple  
Councilmember – District 5  
Chair, Law & Legislation Committee  
City of Sacramento

Carlos Quintero  
General Manager  
Sweetwater Authority

Catherine Cerri  
General Manager  
Lake Arrowhead Community Services District

Cathy Lee  
General Manager  
Carmichael Water District

Chris Berch, P.E.  
General Manager  
Jurupa Community Services District

Craig D. Miller, P.E.  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water District

Dan Muelrath  
General Manager  
Diablo Water District

Daniel Slawson  
President  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

David Coxey  
General Manager  
Bella Vista Water District

David McNair  
General Manager  
Scotts Valley Water District

David Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management  
District

Deven Upadhyay  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern  
California

Elizabeth Salomone  
General Manager  
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control  
& Water Conservation Improvement

Ernesto A. Avila  
Board President  
Contra Costa Water District

Greg Thomas  
General Manager  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Hannah Davidson  
Project Manager  
Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

J.M. Barrett  
General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

James Lee  
General Manager  
Crescenta Valley Water District

James Peifer  
Executive Director  
Regional Water Authority

James Prior  
General Manager  
San Gabriel County Water District

Kat Wuelfing  
General Manager  
Mid-Peninsula Water District

Jason Martin  
General Manager  
Rancho California Water District

Kimberly A. Thorner  
General Manager  
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Jennifer A. Spindler  
General Manager  
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

Krista Bernasconi  
Mayor  
City of Roseville

Jessica Gauger  
Director of Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Kristine McCaffrey, P.E.  
General Manager  
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Jessaca Lugo  
City Manager  
City of Shasta Lake

Mandip Samra  
General Manager  
Burbank Water and Power

Joe Mouawad, P.E.  
General Manager  
Eastern Municipal Water District

Mark Stapp  
Mayor  
City of Santa Rosa

John Thiel  
General Manager  
West Valley Water District

Matt Stone  
General Manager  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Justin Hopkins  
General Manager  
Stockton East Water District

Matthew Litchfield  
General Manager  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Justin Scott-Coe  
General Manager  
Monte Vista Water District

Michael Moore  
General Manager/CEO  
East Valley Water District

Karen Cowan  
Executive Director  
California Stormwater Quality Association

Norman Huff  
General Manager  
Camrosa Water District

Pat Kaspari  
General Manager  
McKinleyville Community Services District

Paul Cook  
General Manager  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.  
General Manager  
Mesa Water District

Randall James Reed  
President  
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Sheryl Shaw, P.E.  
General Manager  
Walnut Valley Water District

Steve Johnson  
General Manager  
Desert Water Agency

Sue Mosburg  
Executive Director  
California-Nevada Section American Water  
Works Association

Thomas Love  
General Manager  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water  
District

Tom Coleman  
General Manager  
Rowland Water District







August 26, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 394 (Allen) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to respectfully request your signature on SB 394, which would enhance penalties for water theft from fire hydrants. Water agencies are responsible for delivering safe, clean, and affordable drinking water throughout California. However, in recent years, water theft has posed a serious threat to water agencies' ability to fulfill that responsibility.

Water theft takes many forms, the most egregious being water theft from fire hydrants for commercial uses. Illegal actors have been documented connecting to and filling water trucks from fire hydrants without the proper use of hydrant meters to avoid paying for water. These water trucks can hold up to 6,000 gallons of water, resulting in significant loss for water agencies. The stolen water is typically used or sold for profit for commercial purposes, such as by construction companies, landscaping companies, and water trucks selling the water to other users. **Current fine amounts are not strong enough to deter this theft** and may instead be seen as the cost of doing business for some bad actors.

SB 427 of 2021 carried by Senator Eggman established authority for public water agencies to adopt an ordinance that prohibits water theft and makes a violation of that ordinance subject to an administrative fine or penalty. The existing authority breaks theft into two categories: meter tampering and all other forms of water theft. Fines for meter tampering range from \$130 for the first violation up to \$1,300 for the third and additional violations within one year. All other forms of water theft, which currently includes theft from a fire hydrant, can be fined up to \$1,000 for the first violation, up to \$3,000 for the third and additional violations within a year.

At the time these fines were established, the impact to residential customers was a strong consideration that led to the final fine amounts. SB 394 is targeting commercial operators that are illegally diverting water from hydrants for profit.

**Water theft from fire hydrants poses serious risks to public health and safety, water affordability, and water efficiency.** During water theft from hydrants, contamination can occur when non-potable sources are illegally connected to a drinking water system and anti-backflow devices are not used. This cross-contamination between the water system and non-potable source connections poses a serious health risk to everyone in the system.

Further, unauthorized use of a hydrant can lead to water pressure in the system dropping which can jeopardize response to emergency situations such as fires. This potential issue is especially timely given the devastating fires in Southern California.

Illegal connections also often result in costly damage to the fire hydrant and system infrastructure that can impair the hydrant's function. The revenue lost from water theft and the cost of damage to infrastructure as a result of theft is ultimately borne by law-abiding paying customers, having a negative impact on water affordability. Water theft also works against efforts by water districts to comply with State water use efficiency goals under the State's newly adopted Making Conservation a California Way of Life framework.

The current penalties for water theft are an insufficient deterrent and fail to prevent this criminal activity from occurring. SB 394 recognizes and addresses these inefficiencies in existing penalties by authorizing local agencies that provide water services to adopt an ordinance with enhanced penalties specifically for water theft from a fire hydrant. The intent of this bill is to specifically deter commercial water theft, rather than residential water theft. Under SB 394, local agencies could adopt an ordinance allowing them to set fines not to exceed \$2,500 for the first violation and up to \$10,000 for the third and any additional violations.

This bill would also remove the one-year reset on existing penalties for the third and additional violations for water theft committed via meter tampering and other forms of water theft. Further, this bill would help agencies recover damages as a result of water theft from a fire hydrant by authorizing a utility to bring a civil action for damages against any person who, without authorization, tampers with or diverts water from a fire hydrant. These provisions on civil action would be available to both public agencies and other types of retail water agencies that face these same challenges.



For the reasons above, ACWA and the undersigned organizations strongly support SB 394 and respectfully request your signature. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Julia Hall at [JuliaH@acwa.com](mailto:JuliaH@acwa.com).

Sincerely,

Julia Bishop Hall  
State Legislative Director  
Association of California Water Agencies

Krista Bernasconi  
Mayor  
City of Roseville

David Pedersen  
General Manager  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Albert C Lau, P.E.  
General Manager  
Santa Fe Irrigation District

Jennifer M. Capitolo  
Executive Director  
California Water Association

Kristine McCaffrey, P.E.  
General Manager  
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Melissa Sparks-Kranz  
Legislative Advocate  
League of California Cities

Steve Johnson  
General Manager  
Desert Water Agency

Andrea Abergel  
Director of Water  
California Municipal Utilities Association

Anthony L. Firenzi  
Director of Strategic Affairs  
Placer County Water Agency

Eric Will  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California

Joe Mouawad, P.E.  
General Manager  
Eastern Municipal Water District

Aaron Avery  
Director of State Legislative Affairs  
California Special Districts Association

Matt Stone  
General Manager  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Kristopher Anderson  
Policy Advocate  
California Chamber of Commerce

Justin Scott-Coe  
General Manager  
Monte Vista Water District

Deven Upadhyay  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Jennifer A. Spindler  
General Manager  
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

Kyle Swanson  
CEO/General Manager  
Padre Dam Municipal Water District

David Coxey  
General Manager  
Bella Vista Water District

Kat Wuelfing  
General Manager  
Mid-Peninsula Water District

Emily Long  
Administrative and External Affairs Specialist  
Tuolumne Utilities District

Bruce Kamilos  
General Manager  
Elk Grove Water District

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.  
General Manager  
Mesa Water District

Brian Olney  
General Manager  
Helix Water District

Kevin Phillips  
District Manager  
Paradise Irrigation District

Jason Martin  
General Manager  
Rancho California Water District

Michael J. Hether, P.E.  
Assistant Public Works Director-Utilities  
City of Fairfield

John Bosler  
General Manager/CEO  
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Tom Majich  
General Manager  
Kinneloa Irrigation District

Brett Sanders  
General Manager  
Lakeside Water District

James Lee  
General Manager  
Crescenta Valley Water District

Elizabeth Salomone  
General Manager  
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control  
& Water Conservation Improvement

Kim Domingo  
General Manager  
Rosamond Community Services District

Paul Helliker  
General Manager  
San Juan Water District

Edward A. Castaneda  
General Manager  
Orchard Dale Water District

Matthew Litchfield  
General Manager  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Craig D. Miller, P.E.  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water District

Joel Metzger  
General Manager  
Utica Water and Power Authority

Gary Arant  
General Manager  
Valley Center Municipal Water District

John Thiel  
General Manager  
West Valley Water District

Tim Worley  
Managing Director  
Community Water Systems Alliance

Thomas Love  
General Manager  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

David McNair  
General Manager  
Scotts Valley Water District

Nina Jazmadarian  
General Manager  
Foothill Municipal Water District

Jim Abercrombie  
General Manager  
El Dorado Irrigation District

Robert Grantham  
General Manager  
Santa Margarita Water District

J.M. Barrett  
General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

David J. Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Sue Mosburg  
Executive Director  
American Water Works Association - California-Nevada Section

Michael Moore  
General Manager/CEO  
East Valley Water District

Marion Champion  
Assistant General Manager  
Mission Springs Water District

Daniel Slawson  
President  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E.  
General Manager  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Timothy R. Shaw  
General Manager  
Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District

Robert Johnson  
General Manager  
Aromas Water District

Anjanette Shadley  
Assistant General Manager  
Western Canal Water District

Thomas Huss  
General Manager  
Pinyon Pines County Water District

Mary Rogren  
General Manager  
Coastside County Water District

Caity Maple  
Councilmember – District 5  
Chair, Law & Legislation Committee  
City of Sacramento

Paul Cook  
General Manager  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Harvey De La Torre  
General Manager  
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Senator John Kennedy  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, Appropriations  
United States Senate

Representative Chuck Fleischmann  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

Senator Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, Appropriations  
United States Senate

Representative Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

UPDATED June 27, 2025

**RE: Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Funding for FY2026**

Dear Senators Kennedy and Murray and Representatives Fleischmann and Kaptur,

The undersigned 103 stakeholders representing water management and use, agriculture, business, outdoor recreation, conservation, and other interests write to request your support for robust annual funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program in the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriations process for Energy and Water Development.

The popular and competitive WaterSMART program is a cornerstone of Reclamation's mission to manage, develop, and protect water and energy resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner for millions of Americans. WaterSMART supports cost-shared funding for projects that further activities core to Reclamation's mission, ensuring water availability and conservation, drought planning and response, energy security, habitat restoration, irrigation modernization, and improved fish passage that support the recovery and delisting of endangered species, as well as other similar projects that help address the most pressing water challenges in the western United States. Most WaterSMART projects require at least 50 percent cost sharing to leverage non-federal financial resources. To date, Reclamation has selected 2,364 projects and plans, to be funded with \$3.28 billion in WaterSMART funding, in conjunction with \$8.75 billion in non-federal funding, across the western states.<sup>1</sup> Completed WaterSMART projects are saving an estimated 1.7 million acre-feet per year; enough water for more than 4.6 million people.

In particular, we support continued FY2026 funding for WaterSMART programs **at FY2024 funding levels or above**, including: \$15.017 million for Basin Studies; \$8 million for Cooperative Watershed Management; \$30 million for Drought Response and Comprehensive

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Program Data Portal, accessed June 3, 2025, <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bf5c5357e7044e0c80d5a55788d1db34/>.

Drought Plans; \$30 million for Title XVI Program (water recycling and reuse); \$6.5 million for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program; and \$54 million for WaterSMART Grants.

Projects funded by the WaterSMART program often provide the dual benefit of water savings and ecosystem benefits, resulting in a high return on investment. The projects funded by these programs are essential to building drought resilience in a hotter and drier West, including ensuring the safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources for people and agriculture. Furthermore, WaterSMART-funded projects play an integral part in supporting local communities in their wildfire preparedness efforts.

Federally funded WaterSMART projects have reduced risks associated with natural disasters, increased water security, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, improved agricultural resiliency, and created jobs, especially in rural communities. These federal funds are also crucial in addressing the immense need for water infrastructure investments in the West, which exceeds the capacity of states and local governments to finance on their own. As drought conditions continue to intensify, sustained, annual funding for these activities is more important than ever.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Water Efficiency  
Altar Valley Conservation Alliance  
American Rivers  
Amigos Bravos  
Arizona Municipal Water Users Association  
Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Association of Northwest Steelheaders (OR)  
Bernalillo County Natural Resource  
Services  
Blua Consulting LLC  
Burbank Water and Power  
California Farm Bureau  
California Water Efficiency Partnership  
Calleguas Municipal Water District  
Cavanaugh  
Citrus Heights Water District  
City of Beverly Hills  
City of Fullerton  
City of Peoria  
City of Round Rock, Texas  
City of Santa Barbara

City of Santa Rosa  
City of Surprise - Arizona  
City of Thornton, Colorado  
City of Vacaville Utilities Department  
Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership  
Colorado River Board of California  
Colorado Wildlife Federation  
Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma  
Conservation Northwest (WA)  
ConserveTrack, LLC  
County of Santa Barbara Water Resources  
Cucamonga Valley Water District  
Eastern Municipal Water District  
Ecoblue® | Water is life.  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Incentives  
Family Farm Alliance  
Farmers Conservation Alliance  
Gallatin River Task Force  
Green Builder Coalition

Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and  
the Outdoors (HECHO)  
Idaho Wildlife Federation  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Irrigation Association  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District  
Laguna Beach County Water District  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Liberty  
Long Beach Utilities Department  
Mesa Water District  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern  
California  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management  
District  
Municipal Water District of Orange County  
National Association of Clean Water  
Agencies  
National Association of Landscape  
Professionals  
National Audubon Society  
National Water Resources Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Nebraska Wildlife Federation  
Nevada Wildlife Federation  
New Mexico Wildlife Federation  
North Dakota Wildlife Federation  
Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
Rancho California Water District  
Regional Water Providers Consortium  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
San Diego County Water Authority  
San Dieguito Water District  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency  
Seattle Public Utilities, City of Seattle  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
South Dakota Wildlife Federation  
South Tahoe Public Utility District

Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Southwestern Water Conservation District  
Texas Conservation Alliance  
The Nature Conservancy  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District  
Town of Gilbert  
Town of Queen Creek  
Trout Unlimited  
Universal Access to Clean Water for Tribal  
Communities  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water  
District  
Utah Division of Water Resources  
Utah Water Ways  
Utah Wildlife Federation  
Vallecitos Water District  
Walnut Valley Water District  
WaterNow Alliance  
Watershed Management Group  
Weber Basin Water Conservancy District  
West Basin Municipal Water District  
Western Agriculture and Conservation  
Coalition  
Western Landowners Alliance  
Western Municipal Water District  
Western Resource Advocates  
World Wildlife Fund  
Wyoming Wildlife Federation





## Dave Stoldt

---

**From:** Mike McCullough  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2025 2:09 PM  
**To:** Sevilla, Edwin (Schiff)  
**Cc:** Dave Stoldt  
**Subject:** Thanks

Edwin,

I know this list has been out there for a while but just wanted to say thank you and to the Senator's team for putting the District's project, Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Project, on the Senator's congressionally directed spending items list for the Fiscal Year 2026 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Bill. [EWD Schiff CDS Disclosure 25 updated.pdf](#)

The District has identified several projects where stormwater could be diverted for additional flows which are then available for recycling. This area has done a great job in trying to maximize the amount of water that can be recycled whether it is for agriculture irrigation, landscape irrigation, or injection underground for use as a potable water supply later.

As I mentioned on the tour – we have a lot of things to show you and the Senator if another visit is warranted. Just on the peninsula, there is stormwater diversion and reuse, a small reservoir, fish rescue facilities, water recycling for golf courses, water recycling for landscape irrigation, aquifer storage and recovery, plus tons of work for indoor conservation. This area has been leading the way regarding conservation for over 30 plus years. In the Salinas Valley, they have agricultural drainage recycling, stormwater recycling, a rubber dam to hold back Salinas River water, recycled water for agriculture (27 years and counting), diversion facilities for stormwater and industrial processing water, plus two large reservoirs that serve multiple purposes.

Both areas have received federal dollars to support various projects of which we are very grateful.

We know we must work together to solve some very serious issues regarding water supplies. Our preceding thought leaders did a great job in laying a foundation for a sustainable water future. We are building upon that foundation and are excited about the future projects that will help promote vibrant communities.

We'll be back in touch soon.

Thanks,



**Mike McCullough**  
Assistant General Manager  
5 Harris Court – Bldg G  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Phone: (831) 658-5652





June 23, 2025

The Honorable Ash Kalra  
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 394 (Allen) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for SB 394, which would enhance penalties for water theft from fire hydrants. Water agencies are responsible for delivering safe, clean, and affordable drinking water throughout California. However, in recent years, water theft has posed a serious threat to water agencies' ability to fulfill that responsibility.

Water theft takes many forms, the most egregious being water theft from fire hydrants for commercial uses. Illegal actors have been documented connecting to and filling water trucks from fire hydrants without the proper use of hydrant meters to avoid paying for water. These water trucks can hold up to 6,000 gallons of water, resulting in significant loss for water agencies. The stolen water is typically used

or sold for profit for commercial purposes, such as by construction companies, landscaping companies, and water trucks selling the water to other users. **Current fine amounts are not strong enough to deter this theft** and may instead be seen as the cost of doing business for some bad actors.

SB 427 of 2021 carried by Senator Eggman established authority for public water agencies to adopt an ordinance that prohibits water theft and makes a violation of that ordinance subject to an administrative fine or penalty. The existing authority breaks theft into two categories: meter tampering and all other forms of water theft. Fines for meter tampering range from \$130 for the first violation up to \$1,300 for the third and additional violations within one year. All other forms of water theft, which currently includes theft from a fire hydrant, can be fined up to \$1,000 for the first violation, up to \$3,000 for the third and additional violations within a year.

At the time these fines were established, the impact to residential customers was a strong consideration that led to the final fine amounts. SB 394 is targeting commercial operators that are illegally diverting water from hydrants for profit.

**Water theft from fire hydrants poses serious risks to public health and safety, water affordability, and water efficiency.** During water theft from hydrants, contamination can occur when non-potable sources are illegally connected to a drinking water system and anti-backflow devices are not used. This cross-contamination between the water system and non-potable source connections poses a serious health risk to everyone in the system.

Further, unauthorized use of a hydrant can lead to water pressure in the system dropping which can jeopardize response to emergency situations such as fires. This potential issue is especially timely given the devastating fires in Southern California.

Illegal connections also often result in costly damage to the fire hydrant and system infrastructure that can impair the hydrant's function. The revenue lost from water theft and the cost of damage to infrastructure as a result of theft is ultimately borne by law-abiding paying customers, having a negative impact on water affordability. Water theft also works against efforts by water districts to comply with State water use efficiency goals under the State's newly adopted Making Conservation a California Way of Life framework.

The current penalties for water theft are an insufficient deterrent and fail to prevent this criminal activity from occurring. SB 394 recognizes and addresses these inefficiencies in existing penalties by authorizing local agencies that provide water services to adopt an ordinance with enhanced penalties specifically for water theft from a fire hydrant. The intent of this bill is to specifically deter commercial water theft, rather than residential water theft. Under SB 394, local agencies could adopt an ordinance allowing them to set fines not to exceed \$2,500 for the first violation and up to \$10,000 for the third and any additional violations.

This bill would also remove the one-year reset on existing penalties for the third and additional violations for water theft committed via meter tampering and other forms of water theft. This bill would also help agencies recover damages as a result of water theft from a fire hydrant by authorizing a utility to bring a civil action for damages against any person who, without authorization, tampers with or diverts water from a fire hydrant. These provisions on civil action would be available to both public agencies and other types of retail water agencies that face these same challenges.

For the reasons above, ACWA and the undersigned organizations strongly support SB 394 and respectfully request your “AYE” vote when the bill is heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Julia Hall at [JuliaH@acwa.com](mailto:JuliaH@acwa.com).

Sincerely,

Julia Bishop Hall  
State Legislative Director  
Association of California Water Agencies

Krista Bernasconi  
Mayor  
City of Roseville

David Pedersen  
General Manager  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Albert C Lau, P.E.  
General Manager  
Santa Fe Irrigation District

Jennifer M. Capitolo  
Executive Director  
California Water Association

Kristine McCaffrey, P.E.  
General Manager  
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Melissa Sparks-Kranz  
Legislative Advocate  
League of California Cities

Steve Johnson  
General Manager  
Desert Water Agency

Andrea Abergel  
Director of Water  
California Municipal Utilities Association

Anthony L. Firenzi  
Director of Strategic Affairs  
Placer County Water Agency

Eric Will  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California

Joe Mouawad, P.E.  
General Manager  
Eastern Municipal Water District

Aaron Avery  
Director of State Legislative Affairs  
California Special Districts Association

Matt Stone  
General Manager  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Kristopher Anderson  
Policy Advocate  
California Chamber of Commerce

Justin Scott-Coe  
General Manager  
Monte Vista Water District

Deven Upadhyay  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Jennifer A. Spindler  
General Manager  
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

Kyle Swanson  
CEO/General Manager  
Padre Dam Municipal Water District

David Coxey  
General Manager  
Bella Vista Water District

Kat Wuelfing  
General Manager  
Mid-Peninsula Water District

Emily Long  
Administrative and External Affairs Specialist  
Tuolumne Utilities District

Bruce Kamilos  
General Manager  
Elk Grove Water District

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.  
General Manager  
Mesa Water District

Brian Olney  
General Manager  
Helix Water District

Kevin Phillips  
District Manager  
Paradise Irrigation District

Jason Martin  
General Manager  
Rancho California Water District

Michael J. Hether, P.E.  
Assistant Public Works Director-Utilities  
City of Fairfield

John Bosler  
General Manager/CEO  
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Tom Majich  
General Manager  
Kinneloa Irrigation District

Brett Sanders  
General Manager  
Lakeside Water District

James Lee  
General Manager  
Crescenta Valley Water District

Elizabeth Salomone  
General Manager  
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control  
& Water Conservation Improvement

Kim Domingo  
General Manager  
Rosamond Community Services District

Paul Helliker  
General Manager  
San Juan Water District

Edward A. Castaneda  
General Manager  
Orchard Dale Water District

Matthew Litchfield  
General Manager  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Craig D. Miller, P.E.  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water District

Joel Metzger  
General Manager  
Utica Water and Power Authority

Gary Arant  
General Manager  
Valley Center Municipal Water District

John Thiel  
General Manager  
West Valley Water District

Tim Worley  
Managing Director  
Community Water Systems Alliance

Thomas Love  
General Manager  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

David McNair  
General Manager  
Scotts Valley Water District

Nina Jazmadarian  
General Manager  
Foothill Municipal Water District

Jim Abercrombie  
General Manager  
El Dorado Irrigation District

Robert Grantham  
General Manager  
Santa Margarita Water District

J.M. Barrett  
General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

David J. Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Sue Mosburg  
Executive Director  
American Water Works Association - California-Nevada Section

Michael Moore  
General Manager/CEO  
East Valley Water District

Marion Champion  
Assistant General Manager  
Mission Springs Water District

Daniel Slawson  
President  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E.  
General Manager  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Timothy R. Shaw  
General Manager  
Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District

Robert Johnson  
General Manager  
Aromas Water District

Anjanette Shadley  
Assistant General Manager  
Western Canal Water District

Thomas Huss  
General Manager  
Pinyon Pines County Water District

Mary Rogren  
General Manager  
Coastside County Water District

Paul Cook  
General Manager  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Caity Maple  
Councilmember – District 5  
Chair, Law & Legislation Committee  
City of Sacramento





SACRAMENTO 980 9th Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 441-4545  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 357, Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 434-4760

[www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com)

June 20, 2025

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Capitol Office, Room 8140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 454 (McNerney) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Wicks:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for SB 454, which would establish a statewide PFAS Mitigation Fund (fund) intended to help local public agencies pay for cleaning up PFAS contamination in drinking water and wastewater.

SB 454 would not fiscally impact the state. It would simply establish a fund intended to leverage existing and future potential funding to support public water and wastewater agencies' cleanup of PFAS contamination and compliance with PFAS drinking water standards. SB 454 would also prohibit the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) from expending more than 5 percent of the total monies available in the fund for purposes related to administrative costs. SB 454 would become operative upon appropriation by the Legislature.

Public water agencies are responsible for delivering safe, clean, and affordable drinking water throughout California. To fulfill that responsibility, public water agencies must comply with federal and state drinking water standards, including PFAS drinking water standards. Drinking water standards can have significant financial impacts on public water agencies, which are passed on to ratepayers and ultimately, impact water affordability.

PFAS, characterized as "forever chemicals" due to their stability in the environment and resistance to breaking down, are a large group of man-made chemicals that have been used extensively since the 1940s and can today be found in our food system, drinking water supplies, and air. Despite legislative efforts, PFAS are still manufactured, distributed, and used globally and continue to passively contaminate water supplies and wastewater systems. While public water agencies are not the source of PFAS or responsible for the development of the products that introduced PFAS into water supplies and wastewater systems, they are responsible for monitoring for their presence, treating the water, and disposing of the contamination.

In April 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established new national, legally enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCL) of 4.0 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS as individual contaminants. Public water agencies are required to comply with these MCLs by 2031. EPA estimated that the annual nationwide cost for public water agencies to comply with these MCLs, and primarily for PFOA and PFOS, will be between \$772 million and \$1.2 billion. The American Water Works Association contends that the actual cost could reach \$40 billion in capital investments, with annual operating expenses between \$2.7 billion and \$3.5 billion.

This year, the State Water Board is expected to initiate a formal rulemaking process to set a PFAS drinking water standard. Existing law requires a contaminant's MCL to be established at a level as close to its public health goal as is technologically and economically feasible. Existing law also requires state drinking water standards to be at least as stringent as federal standards set by the EPA. **With California's MCL anticipated to be at least as protective as the federal MCL, the costs associated with treating California's water supplies will be significant.**

For the reasons above, ACWA, Cal Cities, and the undersigned organizations strongly support SB 454 and respectfully request your "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. If you have any questions about our position, please contact Chelsea Haines at [chelseah@acwa.com](mailto:chelseah@acwa.com) or Melissa Sparks-Kranz at [msparkskranz@calcities.org](mailto:msparkskranz@calcities.org).

Sincerely,

Chelsea Haines  
State Regulatory Director  
Association of California Water Agencies

Carlos Quintero  
General Manager  
Sweetwater Authority

Melissa Sparks-Kranz  
Legislative Advocate  
League of California Cities

Catherine Cerri  
General Manager  
Lake Arrowhead Community Services District

Aaron Avery  
Director of State Legislative Affairs  
California Special Districts Association

Cathy Lee  
General Manager  
Carmichael Water District

Andrea Abergel  
Director of Water  
California Municipal Utilities Association

Chris Berch, P.E.  
General Manager  
Jurupa Community Services District

Anjanette Shadley  
Assistant General Manager  
Western Canal Water District

Craig D. Miller, P.E.  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water District

Brian Olney  
General Manager  
Helix Water District

Dan Muelrath  
General Manager  
Diablo Water District

Caity Maple  
Councilmember – District 5  
Chair, Law & Legislation Committee  
City of Sacramento

Daniel Slawson  
President  
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

David Coxey  
General Manager  
Bella Vista Water District

James Lee  
General Manager  
Crescenta Valley Water District

David McNair  
General Manager  
Scotts Valley Water District

James Peifer  
Executive Director  
Regional Water Authority

David Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management  
District

James Prior  
General Manager  
San Gabriel County Water District

Deven Upadhyay  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern  
California

Jason Martin  
General Manager  
Rancho California Water District

Elizabeth Salomone  
General Manager  
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control  
& Water Conservation Improvement

Jennifer A. Spindler  
General Manager  
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

Jessica Gauger  
Director of Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Ernesto A. Avila  
Board President  
Contra Costa Water District

Jessaca Lugo  
City Manager  
City of Shasta Lake

Greg Thomas  
General Manager  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Joe Mouawad, P.E.  
General Manager  
Eastern Municipal Water District

Hannah Davidson  
Project Manager  
Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

John Thiel  
General Manager  
West Valley Water District

J.M. Barrett  
General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

Justin Hopkins  
General Manager  
Stockton East Water District



Justin Scott-Coe  
General Manager  
Monte Vista Water District

Norman Huff  
General Manager  
Camrosa Water District

Kat Wuelfing  
General Manager  
Mid-Peninsula Water District

Pat Kaspari  
General Manager  
McKinleyville Community Services District

Kimberly A. Thorner  
General Manager  
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Paul Cook  
General Manager  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Krista Bernasconi  
Mayor  
City of Roseville

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.  
General Manager  
Mesa Water District

Kristine McCaffrey, P.E.  
General Manager  
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Randall James Reed  
President  
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Mandip Samra  
General Manager  
Burbank Water and Power

Sheryl Shaw, P.E.  
General Manager  
Walnut Valley Water District

Mark Stapp  
Mayor  
City of Santa Rosa

Steve Johnson  
General Manager  
Desert Water Agency

Matt Stone  
General Manager  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Sue Mosburg  
Executive Director  
California-Nevada Section American Water  
Works Association

Matthew Litchfield  
General Manager  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Thomas Love  
General Manager  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water  
District

Michael Moore  
General Manager/CEO  
East Valley Water District

Tom Coleman  
General Manager  
Rowland Water District





June 13, 2025

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta  
United States House of Representatives  
304 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Panetta:

On behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), as the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Appropriations process begins, I respectfully urge you to fund critical water infrastructure programs and to maintain the investments that strengthen public health, support economic growth, and ensure that water remains accessible and affordable.

Our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure programs are essential to the health and well-being of every American and the basic functioning of our society. Water systems' mission is to provide these services, ensuring that the water delivered to households across the country is safe, clean, and affordable.

**As Congress works to develop FY26 spending levels for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), please fully fund core water infrastructure programs like the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), as well as several targeted water infrastructure grant programs that Congress has authorized in recent years.**

Both SRF and WIFIA were foundational financial support for the innovative Pure Water Monterey project here on the Monterey Peninsula.

Any cuts to these programs, such as those that were proposed in the President's initial budget request, would impact water affordability for many households across the country. During a time when many Americans are already struggling with the cost of living, this would create a water crisis that utilities cannot solve without federal assistance, as systems would be forced to defer urgent projects or increase water rates. An analysis by Banner Public Affairs estimates that the President's budget request would lead to nearly 40,000 lost jobs nationwide and \$6.47 billion in reduced economic output.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the analysis reports that every \$1 million invested in water infrastructure supports 15.7 good-paying American jobs.

In the weeks since the budget request release, it has been meaningful to see members of Congress raise concerns during the budget hearings, and question how local utilities and communities could continue providing these critical water services to their constituents without federal support. Water systems have already been chronically underfunded, as EPA data shows

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<sup>1</sup> [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5f8d9b0df18924408870e070/6815343236b12b9e4bd34ac4\\_493f0013ae3d188c08f811351579e17a\\_Downloadthe%20Drain%20V1.3.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5f8d9b0df18924408870e070/6815343236b12b9e4bd34ac4_493f0013ae3d188c08f811351579e17a_Downloadthe%20Drain%20V1.3.pdf)

that the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems face more than \$1.2 trillion capital improvement need over the next 20 years to maintain current levels of service.<sup>2, 3</sup>

Additionally, MPWMD strongly opposes cuts to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as outlined in the FY26 budget request. **A nearly \$610 million cut to existing Reclamation funding would detrimentally impact building and maintaining essential water infrastructure.** Reclamation funding is essential to help provide safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources throughout the western United States. We are especially concerned about the complete elimination of funding for critical programs such as Reclamation's Aging Infrastructure Program, WaterSmart Program funding (including Title XVI Water Recycling), and WIIN (Section 4007) Water Storage funding.

Since the 1990s, water agencies in Monterey County have partnered with Reclamation to fund water recycling projects to deliver critically needed water to both local urban customers and agricultural food suppliers to the world, while also reducing waste discharges to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Again, MPWMD urges you to protect water infrastructure programs. Thank you for your consideration. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as we seek to work with our community partners to help build a more sustainable and resilient future for the residents of the Monterey Peninsula.

Sincerely,



David J. Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District  
dstoldt@mpwmd.net

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSAs\\_September2023\\_Final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSAs_September2023_Final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/2022-cwns-report-to-congress.pdf>





June 13, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff:

On behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), as the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Appropriations process begins, I respectfully urge you to fund critical water infrastructure programs and to maintain the investments that strengthen public health, support economic growth, and ensure that water remains accessible and affordable.

Our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure programs are essential to the health and well-being of every American and the basic functioning of our society. Water systems' mission is to provide these services, ensuring that the water delivered to households across the country is safe, clean, and affordable.

**As Congress works to develop FY26 spending levels for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), please fully fund core water infrastructure programs like the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), as well as several targeted water infrastructure grant programs that Congress has authorized in recent years.**

Both SRF and WIFIA were foundational financial support for the innovative Pure Water Monterey project here on the Monterey Peninsula.

Any cuts to these programs, such as those that were proposed in the President's initial budget request, would impact water affordability for many households across the country. During a time when many Americans are already struggling with the cost of living, this would create a water crisis that utilities cannot solve without federal assistance, as systems would be forced to defer urgent projects or increase water rates. An analysis by Banner Public Affairs estimates that the President's budget request would lead to nearly 40,000 lost jobs nationwide and \$6.47 billion in

reduced economic output.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the analysis reports that every \$1 million invested in water infrastructure supports 15.7 good-paying American jobs.

In the weeks since the budget request release, it has been meaningful to see members of Congress raise concerns during the budget hearings, and question how local utilities and communities could continue providing these critical water services to their constituents without federal support. Water systems have already been chronically underfunded, as EPA data shows that the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems face more than \$1.2 trillion capital improvement need over the next 20 years to maintain current levels of service.<sup>2, 3</sup>

Additionally, MPWMD strongly opposes cuts to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as outlined in the FY26 budget request. **A nearly \$610 million cut to existing Reclamation funding would detrimentally impact building and maintaining essential water infrastructure.** Reclamation funding is essential to help provide safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources throughout the western United States. We are especially concerned about the complete elimination of funding for critical programs such as Reclamation's Aging Infrastructure Program, WaterSmart Program funding (including Title XVI Water Recycling), and WIIN (Section 4007) Water Storage funding.

Since the 1990s, water agencies in Monterey County have partnered with Reclamation to fund water recycling projects to deliver critically needed water to both local urban customers and agricultural food suppliers to the world, while also reducing waste discharges to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Again, MPWMD urges you to protect water infrastructure programs. Thank you for your consideration. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as we seek to work with our community partners to help build a more sustainable and resilient future for the residents of Monterey Peninsula.

Sincerely,



David J. Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District  
dstoldt@mpwmd.net

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<sup>1</sup> [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5f8d9b0df18924408870e070/6815343236b12b9e4bd34ac4\\_493f0013ae3d188c08f811351579e17a\\_Down%20the%20Drain%20V1.3.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/5f8d9b0df18924408870e070/6815343236b12b9e4bd34ac4_493f0013ae3d188c08f811351579e17a_Down%20the%20Drain%20V1.3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSAs\\_September2023\\_Final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/Seventh%20DWINSAs_September2023_Final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/2022-cwns-report-to-congress.pdf>



May 1, 2025

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta  
United States House of Representatives  
304 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: H.R. 1267 – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Panetta:

On behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation will ensure that polluters – not water systems and their ratepayers – face financial liability for cleaning up sites contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Last year, EPA designated perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) – two PFAS chemicals – as hazardous substances under CERCLA. At the time, EPA released an enforcement discretion memo pledging to focus federal enforcement efforts on the entities responsible for releasing PFAS into the environment. But drinking water and wastewater systems, and our ratepayers, could still face significant financial liability unless Congress acts.

PFAS and PFOA compounds are a group of synthetic chemicals that have been used extensively in industrial applications in a wide variety of products from textiles and cookware to firefighting foam since 1938. These compounds are resistant to natural degradation and have contaminated soil, water, wildlife, and even human beings. Water managers are one of the few groups working to remove these contaminants from the environment, despite the fact that we are not the entities that introduced these compounds into the environment.

California water managers are recognized as national and international leaders in working to address PFAS contaminants when they are found in water. However, we are very concerned about potentially being held liable under CERCLA.

Drinking water and wastewater systems do not produce, use, or benefit from PFAS. Instead, these systems passively receive PFAS into their treatment plants from industrial processes, manufacturing facilities, and the widespread use of PFAS-laden household products. The purpose of water treatment is to remove contaminants. As a result, PFAS is present in treatment residuals, and water systems manage residuals in keeping with applicable regulations. However, with the designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances, water systems could be subject to significant financial and legal liability under CERCLA even though they have responsibly managed PFAS residuals.

Rep. Jimmy Panetta

Page 2 of 2

May 1, 2025

CERCLA does not distinguish between passive receivers of a hazardous substance and the polluting entity that introduced it into the environment. Any entity that handles, manages, or disposes of PFAS could be held partially or fully liable for cleaning it up. If a location where a water system treated, stored, or disposed of PFAS residuals becomes a Superfund cleanup site, the water system could be identified as a potentially responsible party.

Without congressional action, manufacturers and polluters of PFAS can use CERCLA to force water and wastewater systems into expensive and lengthy litigation. This means communities – including those that have already paid to remove PFAS from their drinking water – will have to spend limited resources on legal fees rather than critical system improvements, operations, and maintenance.

I urge you to support and consider cosponsoring H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act, introduced by Representatives Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA-3) and Celeste Maloy (R-UT-2). This bipartisan bill would preserve the “polluter pays” principle under CERCLA and ensure that water systems can focus our efforts on maintaining water quality. If you have any questions or would like to follow up on this matter, please contact ACWA Federal Relations Representative Libby Spekhardt at [libbys@acwa.com](mailto:libbys@acwa.com) or (207) 852-7791.

Thank you for your consideration. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as we seek to work with our community partners to help build a more sustainable and resilient water future for the residents of Monterey Peninsula.

Sincerely,



David J. Stoldt  
General Manager





**Walnut Valley  
Water District**



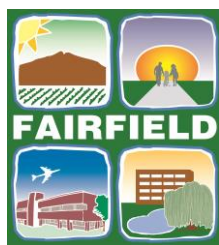
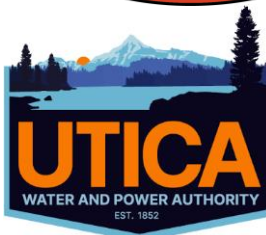
**SCOTT'S VALLEY  
WATER DISTRICT**



**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT**  
A CENTURY OF SERVICE



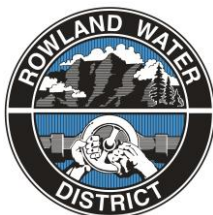
**CONTRA COSTA  
WATER DISTRICT**



**Santa Margarita  
Water District**



**Helix  
WATER DISTRICT**



**SACRAMENTO** 980 9th Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 441-4545  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.** 400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 357, Washington, DC 20001 • (202) 434-4760

[www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com)

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Josh Becker  
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
Capitol Office, Room 6520  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 350 (Durazo) – Water Rate Assistance Program**  
**Position: OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Chair Becker:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), I am writing to respectfully express our “Oppose Unless Amended” position on SB 350, relating to the establishment of a statewide water low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program.

ACWA believes that SB 350 could be amended in a way that accomplishes the goals of the author and that meets the needs of the public water agencies that will play a key role in the administration of a LIRA program. Some water agencies already administer their own LIRA programs. However, many water agencies are precluded from funding a local LIRA program because of financial constraints and limits placed on how ratepayer dollars can be spent by Proposition 218. The concerns and requested amendments summarized below are intended to minimize the administrative burden on local water agencies and make a statewide LIRA program as cost-effective and efficient as possible, without detracting from the author’s goals.

**1) The Bill Does Not Identify a Funding Source**

AB 401 (Dodd, 2015) directed the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to develop a study outlining how it would fund and implement a LIRA program. The AB 401 Report, which was released in 2018, has been used as the framework for multiple LIRA proposals and was developed with a robust public process. The cost estimate for direct water bill assistance at the time the report was released was approximately \$140 million. Notably, neither AB 401 nor the AB 401 Report includes wastewater, as SB 350 does. With the inclusion of wastewater and persistent inflation since the report’s release, the annual cost for the program proposed by SB 350 is likely much higher. It is vital that the funding mechanism for a LIRA program is not regressive and does not challenge water affordability (i.e., a tax on water).

**2) The Cap on Administrative Costs for Local Water Agencies May Need Further Refinement**

As amended, SB 350 proposes to cap reimbursement to water providers for reasonable costs of administration at the greater of 5% of total funds for water bill assistance or \$5,000. The bill also requires the State Water Board to develop a process by which it could grant an exemption to this cap on a case-by-case basis. ACWA appreciates this amendment, as it will give the State Water Board much needed flexibility in the event that the proposed cap is too low. However, because this is a new program, it is very difficult to assess whether the proposed cap on reimbursement for local water agencies will be sufficient. ACWA is committed to working with the author to ensure that local water agencies are able to recover administration costs while maximizing the funding that goes to ratepayer assistance.

**3) Existing LIRA Programs Should Be Able to Continue in Their Existing Form**

Some local water agencies already have successful LIRA programs. Local water agencies should not be required to establish an entirely new LIRA program framework if they have an existing, successful program. ACWA suggests amending the bill to specify that existing local LIRA programs be allowed to continue in their current form as long as they match or exceed the benefit and enrollment levels of the statewide program.

**4) The Proposed Prioritization Framework is Not Appropriate for a LIRA Program**

SB 350 directs the State Water Board to develop a process for determining how implementation will be prioritized among eligible systems in the event that full funding is not immediately available. As amended, the bill directs the State Water Board to prioritize eligible systems that have historically been overburdened by pollution and industrial development or faced other environmental justice hurdles. This is the wrong metric to use when determining funding priority, given that SB 350 is creating a LIRA program aimed at mitigating water affordability issues, not water quality issues. ACWA recommends a simple prioritization framework that reduces funding or changes the eligibility threshold across all systems in the event of insufficient program funding.

**5) The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) Would Be a More Appropriate Implementing Agency**

The bill proposes a LIRA program implemented by the State Water Board. ACWA's strong preference is that the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) implement the program because CSD is experienced with implementing other statewide low-income assistance programs. CSD implemented the federally-funded Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) from 2020 – 2024 as part of the federal government's COVID assistance package. CSD administers many other statewide assistance programs and already has the expertise to implement a LIRA program.

**6) Wastewater Should Be Removed from the Bill**

SB 350 would provide rate assistance to low-income households for both residential water bills and wastewater bills. In many jurisdictions, wastewater bills are assessed as part of property taxes and would not be able to receive a bill credit under this program. Where it is possible to apply a credit to a wastewater bill, doing so would add significant logistical complexity and cost. As noted above, wastewater was not included in the State Water Board's AB 401 report, which outlined how the State would fund and implement such a program. Including wastewater in a LIRA program would create an equity issue by providing a benefit to some eligible customers and not others. It may be appropriate to explore an assistance mechanism for wastewater at a later date. However, ACWA strongly recommends removing it from this bill.

**7) The Bill Should Be Implemented with Regulations, Not Guidelines**

The bill directs the State Water Board to, in consultation with other relevant agencies, adopt guidelines for implementation of the program following three public workshops and at least a 45-day public comment period on the draft guidelines. This amendment is a positive step in the right direction, and ACWA appreciates the author's and the sponsor's openness to ACWA's concerns about public process.

This is a brand-new program that will, if approved and funded, provide benefits to millions of Californians. The importance and complexity of the proposed program merits a comprehensive public engagement process that allows for meaningful public input, multiple hearings, and draft reviews. ACWA believes the program should be implemented through a regulatory process consistent with the Administrative Procedures Act.

**8) The Proposed Enforcement Mechanism is Out of Step with a LIRA Program**

As introduced, the bill proposed authorizing the Attorney General to take enforcement action against a noncompliant system. As amended, the Attorney General would be restricted to taking enforcement action only upon referral by the State Water Board and would not be permitted to take enforcement action against systems making a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of this bill. This is a positive amendment and ACWA appreciates the author's responsiveness to ACWA's concerns.

ACWA's view remains that enforcement by the implementing state agency – particularly given that the State Water Board is a regulatory enforcement agency – is sufficient for a financial assistance program.

**9) LIRA Funding Should Not Be Used to Fund Pilot Projects**

SB 350 proposes to allocate 5% of the program's funds to pilot projects. This bill should be narrowly focused on providing water rate assistance. Support for water use efficiency projects can be funded with climate and/or drought resilience state budget funding separate from this program. ACWA is not opposed to pilot projects related to a LIRA program, but we do not believe they should be funded in a way that reduces the funding available for direct assistance to those who need it.

For these reasons, ACWA respectfully opposes SB 350 unless it is amended to address these concerns. ACWA is committed to continuing to work with the bill's author and proponents to positively amend the bill and requests your support for these changes when the bill is heard in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee. Please contact me at [SorenN@acwa.com](mailto:SorenN@acwa.com) if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,

Soren Nelson  
Senior Policy Advocate  
Association of California Water Agencies

Craig D. Miller, P.E.  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water District

Brian Olney  
General Manager  
Helix Water District

David Coxey  
General Manager  
Bella Vista Water District

Catherine Cerri  
General Manager  
Lake Arrowhead Community Services  
District

David McNair  
General Manager  
Scotts Valley Water District



David Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management  
District

Dennis D. LaMoreaux  
General Manager  
Palmdale Water District

Emily Long  
Administrative and External Affairs  
Specialist  
Tuolumne Utilities District

Ernesto A. Avila  
Board President  
Contra Costa Water District

Hannah Davidson  
Project Manager  
Hidden Valley Lake Community Services  
District

Jack Bebee  
General Manager  
Fallbrook Public Utility District

James Prior  
General Manager  
San Gabriel County Water District

Jared Macias  
Administrative Officer  
Puente Basin Water Agency

Jennifer Spindler  
General Manager  
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

Jim Abercrombie  
General Manager  
El Dorado Irrigation District

Joe Matthews  
General Manager  
La Habra Heights County Water District

Joe Mouawad, P.E.  
General Manager  
Eastern Municipal Water District

Joel Metzger  
General Manager  
Utica Water and Power Authority

Justin Scott-Coe  
General Manager  
Monte Vista Water District

Kimberly Thorner  
General Manager  
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Matt Stone  
General Manager  
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Matthew Litchfield  
General Manager  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Michael J. Hether, P.E.  
Assistant Public Works Director  
City of Fairfield

Michael Moore  
General Manager/CEO  
East Valley Water District

Norman Huff  
General Manager  
Camrosa Water District

Patrick Kaspari  
General Manager  
McKinleyville Community Services District

Paul Helliker  
General Manager  
San Juan Water District

Paul Hughes  
General Manager  
South Tahoe Public Utility District



Paul E. Schoenberger, P.E.  
General Manager  
Mesa Water District

Randall James Reed  
Board President  
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Robert Grantham  
General Manager  
Santa Margarita Water District

Sheryl L. Shaw, P.E.  
General Manager  
Walnut Valley Water District

Steve Johnson  
General Manager  
Desert Water Agency

Steve Lenton  
General Manager  
Bellflower Somerset Mutual Water  
Company

Thomas Love  
General Manager  
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water  
District

Tom Coleman  
General Manager  
Rowland Water District



March 25, 2025

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6510  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 496 (Hurtado): Advanced Clean Fleets – Support [As Introduced]**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is pleased to support your Senate Bill 496, related to the Advanced Clean Fleets mandates.

Local agencies like ours continue to do our part in achieving the State's climate and emissions goals. SB 496 will enable us to better meet this challenge and effectively navigate the current Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) mandates and their associated ambitious compliance deadlines. Of critical concern to our community, the ACF mandates on local agencies are creating unnecessary challenges in complying while maintaining the many critical services Californians rely upon for their most essential daily needs as well as during emergencies and disasters.

SB 496 will provide some relief to local agencies by establishing an Appeals Advisory Committee by which local agencies may request a review of exemption request denials. This ensures transparency while protecting due process for those seeking further review.

Additionally, SB 496 would update the emergency vehicle exemption, allowing those vehicles that respond to and support critical operations related to emergencies and disasters, often under austere conditions, to continue to protect our communities.

SB 496 also modifies the requirements of the daily usage exemption, removing barriers for the applicant to comply with the mandate. Moreover, the legislation promotes affordability amid rapidly rising cost pressures on essential local services by averting the costly acquisition of ZEVs before it is possible to install the infrastructure required to use them.

These improvements to the ACF will protect the health and safety of Californians, avoid unnecessary costs detrimental to our shared long-term goals, and ensure that local agencies can continue to work diligently to decarbonize their fleet operations and comply with the ACF without being penalized for factors beyond their control. For these reasons Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is pleased to support your Senate Bill 496. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

David J Stoldt  
General Manager  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

CC: Anthony Tannehill, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association [advocacy@cda.net]



February 14, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

Congratulations on your appointment as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The undersigned associations, water utilities, manufacturers, distributors, consumer groups, and water-interested stakeholders join in encouraging the agency to continue to fund and operate the highly successful WaterSense® program.

This voluntary public-private partnership has helped American consumers choose more efficient products that WaterSense estimates save them more than \$207 billion (in 2023 dollars) on their water and energy bills since the program's inception. These savings are critical to helping consumers afford their utility bills at a time of rising prices and inflation.

Furthermore, WaterSense-labeled products are evaluated to ensure they perform at a high level while also saving water. Americans can choose from more than 45,000 available models of WaterSense-labeled products for bathrooms, commercial kitchens and irrigation systems.

Water security in the United States is a challenge due to drought, aging infrastructure, and contamination. The WaterSense program is a proven solution to help with these issues, and it is critical to the planned economic development of many communities. WaterSense is supported by consumers, manufacturers and the public and private agencies charged with supplying water to American households and businesses. Since its inception in 2006, it has been immensely successful at achieving its goal of reducing water consumption. An estimated 8.7 trillion gallons have been saved using WaterSense-labeled products.

WaterSense fuels innovation in American manufacturing and is strongly supported by the plumbing and irrigation industry. More than 2,200 manufacturers, retailers and distributors, water and energy utilities, state and local governments, non-profit and trade organizations, irrigation training organizations, and homebuilders partner with WaterSense.

For areas affected by drought, state and local partners help promote and incentivize the voluntary use of WaterSense products to avoid and limit the need to impose more stringent drought restrictions. For example, water utilities, many of whom have been facing drought and other supply constraints in recent years, utilize WaterSense certified products as a vital tool that they can promote through conservation outreach and rebate programs, saving ratepayers the expense of each utility certifying water savings of products separately.

WaterSense helps give consumers more choices, offers manufacturers the opportunity to seek labeling for their innovative, high-performing and efficient products, and creates a clear framework for competition among plumbing and irrigation equipment manufacturers. It is clear to us that the voluntary WaterSense program helps further the policy goals set forth in President Trump's Executive Order on Unleashing American Energy. As a result, we urge you to continue your agency's long-standing support for this program.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Water Efficiency

American Water Works Association

AQUOS POOLS & AFS LLC

Arizona Municipal Water Association

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

California Water Efficiency Partnership

Cavanaugh

Coastside County Water District

Colorado Water Congress

ConserveTrack

Continental Utility Solutions, Inc.

City of Durham, NC

Gauley Associates Ltd.

City of Goodyear

Green Builder Coalition

City of Flagstaff, AZ

Foothill Municipal Water District

Gallatin River Task Force

Halupka Studio

City of Hays, KS

Hoffman & Associates LLC

Hunter Industries

HydroPoint

International Association of Plumbing and  
Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

International Code Council

Irrigation Association

Justice Energy

KOHLER Co.

Kunkel Water Efficiency Consulting

City of Lacey, WA

Liberty Utilities

LIXIL Corporation

City of Mesa, AZ

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

Monte Vista Water District

Municipal Water District of Orange County

City of Napa, CA

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Turfgrass Federation

New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance

Northern Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute

City of Peoria, AZ

Rancho Water

City of Roundrock, TX

Pacific Institute

Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District

Plumbing Manufacturers International

Pluvial Solutions

Residential Energy Services Network, inc. (RESNET®)

City of Sacramento, CA

City of Santa Barbara, CA

Seattle Public Utilities, City of Seattle

Sonoma County Water Agency

Southwest Metropolitan Water and Sanitation District

City of Surprise, AZ

Sustainable Waters

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

T&S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc.

Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District



Valley Water

Washington County (UT) Water Conservancy District

Water Demand Management

Water District of Acton, MA

Waterless Co.

WaterNow Alliance

Watershed LLC

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, UT

Tucson Water