

June 14, 2017

Chairman Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 25015

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy,

As leaders at western water utilities and on behalf of the members of WaterNow Alliance and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, we write to ask for your support for increased funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants Program in the Interior FY 2018 appropriations bill. This modest program provides vitally needed and innovative support for effective water management throughout the West. Specifically, we request that you fund the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grants Program at \$30 million and pass a multi-year extension of Section 9504 of the SECURE Water Act (42 U.S.C. 10364) to ensure the water-saving program continues without interruption.

Public water utilities comprise over 80% of U.S. municipal water providers. Our ability to provide clean and reliable drinking water supplies faces growing challenges from drought, stormwater runoff, aging infrastructure, rising costs, and more. The Colorado River provides drinking water to over 35 million people, supplies water to over 5 million acres of irrigated land, and supports an estimated \$1 trillion dollars in total economic activity – including a thriving recreation industry worth over \$26 billion dollars annually. But by 2060, the Bureau of Reclamation anticipates water demands will exceed available supplies by over 3 million acre-feet.

The WaterSMART Grants Program saves an estimated 1 million acre-feet annually, providing enough water for over 4.5 million people. Nonetheless, there is a significant amount of unmet savings potential — only 1 in 5 grant applications receive funds. A \$30 million appropriation will leverage many additional millions in non-federal funds and make significant progress toward closing the water supply gap across the West.

It is vital to continue to fund and support effective federal programs for water management solutions in the West. Effective collaboration between federal, state, and local governments and tribes is required to more efficiently administer water in the region. Therefore, we urge you to increase funding for the WaterSMART Grants Program to the authorized level of \$30 million.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Koehler  
Executive Director  
WaterNow Alliance



Diane VanDe Hei  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Frank L. Blanco  
Director  
Apache Junction Water District, AZ

Kyla Allen  
Councilmember  
City of Cottonwood, AZ

Eva Putzova  
Councilmember  
City of Flagstaff, AZ

Bart Turner  
Councilmember  
City of Glendale, AZ

Wally Campbell  
Vice Mayor  
City of Goodyear, AZ

Mark Holmes  
Water Resources Manager  
City of Goodyear, AZ

Dave Richins  
Former Councilman  
City of Mesa, AZ

Kevin Thompson  
Councilmember  
City of Mesa, AZ

Vicki Hunt  
Councilmember  
City of Peoria, AZ

Kate Gallego  
Councilmember  
City of Phoenix, AZ

Thelda Williams  
Councilmember  
City of Phoenix, AZ

Lauren Kuby  
Councilmember  
City of Tempe, AZ

Gary Knight  
Councilmember  
City of Yuma, AZ

Stacy Taylor  
External Affairs Manager  
Mesa Water District AZ

Wayne Debrosky  
Public Works/Utilities Director  
Town of Clarkdale, AZ

Martin L. Koller  
Director (ret.)  
Alameda County Water District, CA

Robert Dean  
Board President  
Calaveras County Resource Conservation District, CA

Larry Moody  
Mayor  
City of East Palo Alto, CA

Sam Hindi  
Vice Mayor  
City of Foster City, CA

Michael Kasperzak  
Former Mayor  
City of Mountain View, CA

John McAlister  
Councilmember  
City of Mountain View, CA

Patricia Showalter  
Councilmember  
City of Mountain View, CA

Kathleen Ward  
Mayor  
City of San Clemente, CA

Sylvia Ballin  
Mayor  
City of San Fernando, CA

Kerry Ferguson  
Mayor  
City of San Juan Capistrano, CA

Jason Dominguez  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Santa Barbara, CA

Meghan Sahli-Wells  
Councilmember  
Culver City, CA

Marguerite Young  
Director  
East Bay Municipal Utility District, CA

Kathy Besser  
Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Dev.  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, CA

Steven Elie  
President  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency, CA

Harry Saltzgaver  
Water Commissioner  
Long Beach Water Department, CA

Tom DuBois  
Councilmember  
City of Palo Alto, CA

Steve Jordan  
Director  
Purissima Hills Water District, CA

Tim Smith  
Board Director  
San Diego County Water Authority, CA

Gary Kremen  
Director  
Santa Clara Valley Water District, CA

Ron Duncan  
General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District, CA

Dennis A. Erdman  
Director  
South Coast Water District, CA

Bill Green  
Director  
South Coast Water District, CA

Marshall P. Brown  
Aurora Water Director  
City of Aurora, CO

Bob Roth  
Councilmember  
City of Aurora, CO

Matt Appelbaum  
Councilmember  
City of Boulder, CO

Philip F. Johnson  
Director of Public Works  
City of Cortez, CO

John Ballew  
Utilities Commissioner  
City of Durango, CO

Gerry Horak  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Fort Collins, CO

John Harris  
Public Works Director  
City of Montrose, CO

R. Eric Kuhn  
General Manager  
Colorado River Water Conservation District, CO

Dave Edwards  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Town of Palisade, CO

Chris Bryant  
City Commissioner  
City of Clovis, NM

Olga Pedroza  
City Councilor  
City of Las Cruces, NM

Peter Ives  
Councilmember  
City of Santa Fe, NM

Joseph M. Maestas  
City Councilor  
City of Santa Fe, NM

Debbie Hughes  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Assn. of Conservation Districts

William "Geno" Withelder  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Mesquite, NV

Tim H. Nelson  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Frisco, TX

Steve Kana  
Director of Water & Sewer Utilities  
City of Killeen, TX

Jeannie Simmonds  
Chair  
Cache Water District, UT

Maile Wilson  
Mayor  
Cedar City, UT

Sharla Beverly  
Councilmember  
City of South Salt Lake, UT

Erin Mendenhall  
Councilmember  
Salt Lake City, UT

Thomas Ward  
Director of Sandy Public Utilities  
Sandy City, UT

Cynthia R. Pratt  
Deputy Mayor  
City of Lacey, WA

De'Sean Quinn  
Councilmember  
City of Tukwila, WA

CC: Chairman Alexander, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
Ranking Member Feinstein, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee