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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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February 28, 2019

The Honorable Grace P. Napolitano
U.S. House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1162)

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

The Orange County Water District writes to express its support of the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1162), a bill that would enhance our shared priority of developing sustainable water supplies in the western United States.

Under H.R. 1162, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WIIN Title XVI program would be reauthorized at \$500 million over five years, providing a reasonable and appropriate funding level given the substantial demand for water recycling project assistance as demonstrated by the extensive list of feasible projects. The bill would also make an important adjustment to the spending cap imposed upon project assistance, for the first time since Title XVI was enacted into law, raising funding to \$30,000,000. Finally, we agree with the legislation's provision to clarify that once a project is deemed feasible and competes for actual construction assistance that funding should be made available without further congressional approval. Current law has been interpreted to require congressional approval of the competitively awarded project assistance despite the fact that appropriations have been provided to the program. This additional step serves to delay and increase project costs with little perceived benefit.

Again, we deeply appreciate your years of leadership to advance the use of water recycling and your specific support of our efforts that made the Groundwater Replenishment System a reality. We look forward to assisting you as H.R. 1162 progresses through Congress. If you have any questions or we may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232.

Sincerely,

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
President