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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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June 26, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: The Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2) - Support

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD), located in Orange County, California writes to express our strong support for the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2) that is pending before the House of Representatives. As the House of Representatives prepares to debate and vote on this important legislation, we believe that it represents a responsible and robust federal commitment to our nation's infrastructure needs and especially the water sector. This assistance will help to restore our local, regional, state and national economies, stimulating employment that has been devastated by the Coronavirus COVID-19. As an agency serving more than two million Orange County citizens and the related industries, with safe and reliable water supplies, we urge swift passage of H.R. 2.

As introduced, H.R. 2 would provide important funding to the core federal water infrastructure programs. It would help to close the funding gap to meet the country's demand for reliable water infrastructure. In the case of drinking water infrastructure, the American Water Works Association estimates that \$1 trillion is necessary to ensure proper maintenance and expansion of drinking water infrastructure alone. H.R. 2 commits more than \$60 billion to support the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) State Revolving Loan Funds, \$1 billion in assistance to construct water recycling facilities, provisions that would promote innovation in the treatment of water supplies, and addresses resiliency impacts to protect our infrastructure investments, which will help to close the water infrastructure funding gap. OCWD also endorse H.R. 2's commitment of hundreds of millions of dollars of federal assistance to address the chemical contamination of groundwater supplies and over-drafting of such water supplies.

The Honorable Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy
June 26, 2020
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The value of the federal government's role in supporting water infrastructure cannot be overstated. OCWD is a leader in California and internationally for potable reuse, as it's home to the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). The GWRS is the world's largest potable reuse facility, producing enough water for 850,000 people and will be expanded at a cost of \$310 million by 2023 to produce enough sustainable water for approximately one million people. The GWRS was aided by securing Clean Water State Revolving Funds, the Department of Interior's Title XVI water recycling program and the USEPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, which funded most of the project and helped keep the unit cost of the GWRS water less than the cost of imported water, making this innovative, drought-proof facility a viable solution for Orange County, California. The project has been internationally recognized and today is delivering enough sustainable water to our community of over two million that essentially drought proofs the region. Federal assistance was integral to the success of the GWRS.

Revenue provisions such as the restoration of advanced refunding of municipal debt and Build America Bonds would also help local agencies, like OCWD, close the funding gap to meet the need to address water infrastructure rehabilitation and expansion.

Again, swift passage and enactment of H.R. 2's water infrastructure provisions would serve as a catalyst to restart the economy and ensure the delivery of safe and reliable water supplies. If the District can provide any assistance to you or your staff in any way, please do not hesitate to contact OCWD's Legislative Liaison, Alicia Dunkin, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 477-3750.

Sincerely,



Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
Board President

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-38)
Congressman Gil Cisneros (D-39)
Congresswoman Katie Porter (D-45)
Congressman Jose Luis Correa (D-46)
Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D-47)
Congressman Harley Rouda (D-48)
Congressman Mike Levin (D-49)