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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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April 20, 2016

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Water Recycling Acceleration Act of 2015 (H.R. 2993)—Support

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes in support of the Water Recycling Acceleration Act of 2015 (H.R. 2993). The legislation you are sponsoring amends the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Title XVI) by stating that project funding under this title shall not be required to have been previously specifically authorized, if the project reclaims and reuses municipal, industrial, domestic, or agricultural wastewater or naturally impaired ground and surface waters.

In addition, H.R. 2993 gives priority for funding projects in areas identified as experiencing drought. In addition, projects are prioritized that provide for a more reliable water supply, and for groundwater management and enhancements, among other provisions. The District also supports this legislation because it requires the Secretary to expeditiously solicit water recycling project proposals.

Title XVI funds are critical for the planning, design and construction of new recycled water projects that will supply new sources of reliable and sustainable water for California. For OCWD, this means adding approximately 30 million gallons per day (MGD) of new drinking water with a final expansion of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS).

OCWD operates the GWRS, which is the largest indirect potable reuse project in the world. Operational since January 2008, the GWRS initially produced 70 MGD of high-purity water. In May 2015, production of the GWRS increased by 30 MGD to a total of 100 MGD. This is enough water to meet the needs of nearly 850,000 people in north and central Orange County, California.

Ultimate capacity for the GWRS is projected at 130 MGD after facilities are expanded further and more flows are rerouted from ocean discharge to reuse.

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The District relies on federal support to continue to develop and expand the GWRS, which is especially critical during these times of drought. The final expansion of the GWRS would benefit from H.R. 2993's provisions to expedite and prioritize funding for new water recycling projects through Title XVI.

OCWD appreciates your leadership to provide funding for water reuse in drought-prone areas. Please do not hesitate to contact OCWD Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin at (714) 378-8232 or adunkin@ocwd.com, or me, if we may be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Cathy Green
Board President