



August 27, 2024

The Honorable Senator Padilla
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act – Support

Dear Senator Padilla:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to express support for the Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act (Act). This legislation is critical as it seeks to enhance precipitation forecasting, which is vital for effective water resource management, especially in regions heavily impacted by Atmospheric Rivers (ARs).

ARs account for approximately 50% of the West Coast's annual precipitation. These systems, often described as "rivers in the sky," can transport an amount of water vapor equivalent to up to 15 times the volume of the Mississippi River, depositing significant rainfall or snowfall across narrow geographic regions within a short period. The proposed Act establishes a new program to improve prediction of significant storm events.

OCWD is collaborating with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a strategic project. This initiative leverages the latest advancements in weather forecasting to enhance stormwater storage behind Prado Dam, significantly increasing water supplies for Orange County. A critical aspect of the bill that benefits OCWD is highlighted in its provisions for "Improved precipitation forecasts. —Improved precipitation forecasts pursuant to improved modeling under paragraph (1) should support improved water resource management and resilience to extreme water-related events, from floods to drought, through enhanced streamflow prediction."

We are grateful for your attention to this issue and lend our support to the passage of this Act. Should you require further details or wish to discuss this further, please contact our Legislative Affairs Liaison, Alicia Harasty, at (714) 477-3750 or aharasty@ocwd.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Green".

Cathy Green
OCWD Board President

cc:

Senator Laphonza Butler – CA - D
Congressmember Young Kim, CA-R-40
Congressmember Michelle Steel, CA-R-45
Congressmember Jose Luis Correa, CA-D-46
Congressmember Katie Porter, CA-D-47

Board of Directors