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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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February 8, 2018

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: State Revolving Fund Water Infrastructure Now Act S. 2364 (SRF-WIN Act) -
Support

Dear Chairman Boozman:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) supports your efforts to bridge the construction funding gap for publicly-owned clean water infrastructure projects. As the leading voice for effective federal partnerships with local water agencies, OCWD appreciates that your legislation, the State Revolving Fund Water Infrastructure Now Act S. 2364 (SRF-WIN Act), both maintains the United States Environmental Protection Agency's State Revolving Loan Fund Program and creates a vital new program of assistance.

The SRF-WIN Act, introduced on a bipartisan basis, would establish a new water infrastructure program to provide direct assistance to states that could be leveraged, in a manner consistent with the existing Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, to help clear individual state project backlogs. In California, projects cannot be constructed because the State Revolving Fund (SRF) is financially incapable of addressing all the pending needs. The District believes that if the SRF program would not be impacted by a new source of revenue to the states, and the SRF would be fully funded at not less than fiscal year 2018 levels, then an approach like that detailed in the SRF-WIN Act holds promise.

The SRF-WIN Act envisions providing states with funding assistance that could be leveraged using United States Treasury-rated bonds with no fees. This is vital to making the program attractive to public agencies. Also, the legislation authorizes California to use its share of any appropriated assistance to construct up to \$7 billion of state infrastructure. This recognizes our population and overwhelming project needs. The State of California currently has \$2 billion completed applications pending under the SRF program and another \$5.6 billion in projects under development.

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As you and your colleagues consider final legislative options to help address the substantial funding need within the water sector, we look forward to working with you to advance the SRF WIN Act to address the substantial backlog of water projects and preserve the existing role that the SRF serves. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Legislative Liaison, Alicia Dunkin, at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232.

Sincerely,



Denis R. Bilodeau, P.E.
President

CC: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Kamala Harris