



December 6, 2016

RE: ACWA Support for Drought and WRDA legislation

Dear California Congressional Delegation,

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) appreciates all of the hard work our congressional delegation is undertaking to address the historic drought that is currently devastating California and much of the West. ACWA believes the entire state would benefit from passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), including the provisions responding to historic drought conditions in California and the western states. This legislation will help public water agencies provide safe reliable water to all Californians. ACWA's 430 public agency members span northern and southern California and supply water to both our agricultural and urban economies.

This legislation authorizes numerous projects in California including restoration of the Los Angeles River, Lake Tahoe, and Salton Sea. Additionally it will help ACWA member agencies work with the Army Corps of Engineers on stormwater capture projects and groundwater recharge projects. It also provides direction to the Army Corps to engage in environmental infrastructure projects including water recycling projects.

ACWA has reviewed the California drought language and believes it reflects a balanced compromise that will help provide improved water supplies without violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or biological opinions. During wet events, the language increases the flexibility provided to federal and state agencies to operate the water projects in order to maximize the water available to urban and rural water agencies, while at the same time protecting listed fish species. The language protects the rights of the water users upstream of the Delta and does not amend the ESA. The provision also promotes local water supply development. It authorizes \$515 million for storage, water recycling and reuse, and desalination projects.

This legislation reflects compromises that will improve water supplies for all Californians. ACWA appreciates all of the hard work that you've done to aid the California water community. We strongly support passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy H. Quinn", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Timothy H. Quinn
Executive Director