

Serving:

Anaheim
Brea
Buena Park
Cypress
Fountain Valley
Fullerton
Garden Grove
Huntington Beach
Irvine
La Habra
La Palma
Los Alamitos
Newport Beach
Orange
Placentia
Santa Ana
Seal Beach
Stanton
Tustin
Villa Park
County of Orange
Costa Mesa
Sanitary District
Midway City
Sanitary District
Irvine Ranch
Water District
Yorba Linda
Water District

Orange County Sanitation District

10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

714.962.2411 • www.ocsd.com

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Grace P. Napolitano
United States House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano:

The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) writes in support of the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 (H.R. 1497) that you are cosponsoring with Peter DeFazio, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. OCSD deeply appreciates your long-standing leadership to ensure that we have a robust federal commitment to support clean water agencies' infrastructure needs. The introduction of H.R. 1497, with its bipartisan support, represents an important step toward the enactment of water infrastructure assistance.

In California, the need for water infrastructure assistance is overwhelming. USEPA's most recent survey of needs (Clean Watersheds 2012) reveals that California agencies require more than \$26 billion just to meet the designated federally eligible activities. This demand is only growing with the impacts associated with climate change and antiquated systems. The commitment to authorize \$4 billion annually to the Clean Water SRF Program represents a meaningful down payment that would provide California with approximately \$280 million annually under the current allocation formula. As we have discussed in the past, this formula has not been updated since 1987. As you consider this legislation, we would request that consideration be given to developing an approach to address the allocation of assistance in a more equitable manner given the dramatic population increases California has experienced over the past forty years.

OCSD also supports the bill's other provisions that would remedy impacts from sewer overflows, stormwater flows, and watershed improvement projects. Each of these provisions will lead to improved public health and environmental benefits and advance our shared interest in reversing the decline in our clean water infrastructure.

As you and your colleagues work toward enactment of water infrastructure legislation this Congress, OCSD looks forward to supporting this effort and working with you. If OCSD can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact Rebecca Long at (714) 593-7444 or via email at rlong@ocsd.com.

Sincerely,



David John Shawver
Board Chairman

Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.

