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April 9, 2018

The Honorable Grace P. Napolitano
1610 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano:

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), I am writing in support of the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act: House of Representative (H.R.) Bill 5127. H.R. 5127 addresses the vital need for a robust federal partnership with local water and wastewater agencies. As introduced, H.R. 5127 would directly support OCSD's priority to develop a sustainable and safe recycled water supply for our region and help to drought proof our region. Over the years, your commitment to advancing the development of innovative water treatment technologies has helped to reduce the costs of recycled water, including our internationally recognized Groundwater Replenishment System that, today, is providing more than 100 million gallons of highly treated water.

Most recently, OCSD was honored to be selected as one of three projects to receive funding under the first round of project awards under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. However, the limited funding under WIIN cannot address the substantial needs of OCSD and other agencies. Your effort to provide for a \$500 million authorization for the WIIN competitive grants program will help bridge the funding gap that local agencies confront in trying to finance important water recycling projects. OCSD also supports making this program a permanent element of the United States Bureau of Reclamation portfolio to address the climate resiliency needs of the western United States.

OCSD believes the renewal of the long expired Alternative Water Sources Act would be a valuable tool in the toolbox to help local agencies leverage their investments in water quality improvements through the funding of innovative water supply solutions and address resiliency needs. H.R. 5127's provisions to renew the law and increase funding assistance through direct grants would benefit our efforts to promote innovation.

As you and your colleagues begin to work on developing a new national water infrastructure policy, OCSD is prepared to work with you to advance effective programs like those contained in your legislative proposal. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Long at (714) 593-7444.

Sincerely,



Gregory C. Sebourn, PLS
Board Chairman



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