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May 11, 2020

Honorable Jared Huffman
House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Draft Future Drought Resiliency Act of 2020 – Support

Dear Congressman Huffman:

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) would like to express its support for the Furthering Underutilized Technologies and Unleashing Responsible Expenditures (FUTURE) Drought Resiliency Act. WRD manages groundwater for over four million residents in 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County. The 420-square mile service area uses approximately 220,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year. Fifty percent of the water consumed within this jurisdiction is derived from groundwater sources. Your draft bill, the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act, would expand existing water recycling programs and create new water storage and groundwater storage programs. These initiatives are helpful to WRD in its mission to create a more reliable source of regional water.

The WRD Board of Directors believes the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act can help WRD in its efforts to increase the region's use of sustainable groundwater supplies. Recently, WRD initiated its Water Independence Now (WIN) 4 All Program. This program seeks to increase regional water resiliency by expanding water recycling projects, increasing stormwater capture and developing groundwater storage programs. We appreciate sections 101, 103 and 105 of the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act, which can aid WRD in its goals to preserve and protect groundwater in the region.

Section 101 of the bill includes provisions from Rep. Napolitano's Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1162). This provision would raise the funding authorization for water recycling programs to \$500 million and increase the cap for the Bureau of Reclamations Title XVI programs from \$20 million to \$30 million. As you may know, in June 2019, Director John Allen testified before the Natural Resources Committee in support of H.R. 1162. We are pleased to see H.R. 1162 is included in the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act.

Section 103 of the bill would authorize \$750 million for water storage projects. Within WRD's jurisdiction, there are 450,000 acre-feet of water storage that have not been used. Through a suite of projects in WRD's WIN 4 ALL program, WRD plans to take advantage of unused water storage by increasing the local water supply through stormwater capture and water recycling programs.



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Section 105 of the bill would establish a grant program for desalination projects, including the cleanup of brackish water. Currently, 600,000 acre-feet of groundwater in the region cannot be pumped for potable water use because of high salinity levels. WRD's proposed Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Project seeks to desalinate brackish water and sustain approximately 20 million gallons per day of new potable water in the Los Angeles area.

Through state-of-the-art infrastructure projects and partnerships with government at local, state and federal levels, WRD has managed groundwater infrastructure effectively for six decades. In 2019, WRD completed the Water Independence Now initiative; a suite of projects that produce 21 million gallons per day of advanced treated water and replace nearly 8.4 billion gallons of imported water annually. We believe the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act supports WRD in building upon its successes and starting its next chapter in preserving and protecting groundwater with the WIN 4 All Program.

Thank you for your leadership on combatting severe drought and the water needs of western states. As you work to develop the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act, WRD appreciates the opportunity to provide input. Please contact Angelina Mancillas at (562) 275-4231 or amancillas@ wrd.org if you have questions or would like further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vera Robles DeWitt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Vera Robles DeWitt
WRD Board of Directors, President