



**Sonoma  
Water**

CF/0-0-1 Letter of Support (ID 5524)

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
United States House of Representatives  
1527 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

On behalf of Sonoma Water, I wish to express gratitude and support for your draft legislation, the *Future Drought Resiliency Act*, as it includes several provisions that will positively impact our work managing Sonoma County's water supply.

Sonoma Water knows first-hand how challenging it is to balance the consumptive use of water with environmental needs, especially during drought conditions. Sonoma Water believes in scientifically based federal policies that will ensure reliable water supplies for generations to come. With that perspective in mind, I wish to commend you for including the following provisions in your draft:

- \$10 million to complete Army Corps of Engineers Water Control Manual updates for Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) projects and prioritization of funding for regions impacted by atmospheric rivers;
- Authorization of \$500 million for Title XVI and an increase of the funding cap on individual projects from \$20 million to \$30 million;
- Extension of the WaterSMART authorization and an additional \$100 million a year for the program;
- Income tax relief for homeowners who receive rebates from water utilities to purchase and install water conservation systems;
- Funding for USGS to deploy additional streamgages and direction to leverage that funding in states like California that are stepping up with non-federal investment;
- A new grant program for multi-benefit projects that are designed to improve watershed health, mitigate against climate change and benefit ecosystems;
- A National Academies of Sciences study assessing the impacts of climate change at most vulnerable dams; and,
- A directive to federal agencies to develop proactive plans to sustain commercially and recreationally important fisheries during future drought.

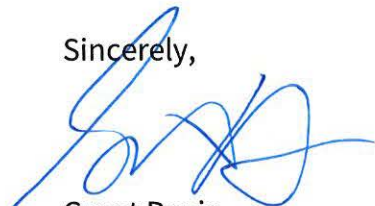
As you know, Sonoma Water has been involved in the nation's first FIRO pilot program at Lake Mendocino. We are proud of the work we have done in collaboration with our federal partners and Scripps University as well as local and state agencies, and we are working to update our water control manual following years of assessments and analysis.

Our FIRO work has already allowed us to save water in our reservoir and once the water control manual update is finalized, it will help mitigate the impacts of future drought. The language in your draft legislation will help us finalize the assessment of our FIRO work that can hopefully be replicated across the country.

Sonoma Water has always supported WaterSMART and Title XVI funding through our North Bay Water Reuse program. We see great value in utilizing better information and data to manage our water supplies and the USGS streamgauge program is a critical component. Additionally, we support your efforts to improve habitat and ecosystem services across the West as we face climate change and more challenging weather patterns.

I look forward to working with you and your staff as the bill is introduced and moves through the legislative process. I would be happy to help in any way and again congratulate you and your staff on a very promising draft bill.

Sincerely,



Grant Davis  
General Manager