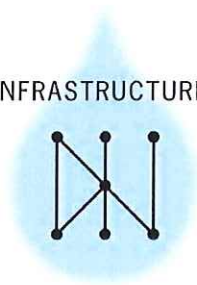


WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK



August 31, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-304  
Washington, DC 20510-6150

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-304  
Washington, DC 20510-6150

**Re: WIN's Strong Support for CA Emergency Drought Relief Act – S.1894**

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), a coalition of the nation's leading construction, engineering, municipal, conservation, public works, labor and manufacturing organizations, strongly supports the CA Emergency Drought Relief Act (S.1894) and urges the prompt consideration and passage of this legislation. The drought crisis now gripping much of the Western United States cannot be solved by changes to existing water allocation policies. Significant new local, state and federal investments in water reuse, water recycling, water storage, desalination and groundwater recharge are critical to providing secure, sustainable sources of water for communities and farmers across the West.

The critical water infrastructure investments authorized in S. 1894 are consistent with ongoing efforts to increase available water supplies in California. Recent examples include:

- Orange County Water District -- which has constructed a water reuse facility that now provides more than 100 million gallons a day of potable water
- Poseidon Desalination Plant – which will provide water for 300,000 San Diego County Residents
- Sites Reservoir – significantly increasing off stream water storage

The water infrastructure investments outlined in S. 1894 will benefit both rural and urban communities and are deserving of broad bipartisan support. Recycled wastewater will someday irrigate millions of acres of agricultural land in the United States. New water storage projects will increase water supplies for cities and farmers while decreasing the impacts of flooding from future wet weather events. Investments today in water reuse, recycling, and storage will

ultimately save the Federal Government billions of dollars in future Emergency Drought, Flood and Fire expenditures.

The Water Infrastructure Network appreciates your thoughtful leadership in advancing comprehensive, bipartisan, drought relief legislation and looks forward to working with you to ensure that critical investments in water reuse, water recycling, water storage and desalination are included in the drought package that ultimately reaches the President's desk.

Sincerely,

## **The WIN Executive Committee**

**American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), American Public Works Association (APWA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), National Association Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), National Rural Water Association (NRWA), United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (The United), and the Vinyl Institute (VI)**

cc: Senator Feinstein

Senator Boxer

Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources