



# WATERREUSE

1199 North Fairfax St, Suite 900 • Alexandria, VA 22314

April 30, 2019

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The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano

United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

We write to thank you for your leadership on water recycling, and your support for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Competitive Grants Program. Your bill, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act of 2019 (H.R. 1162), begins the important process of reauthorizing and enhancing this critical program.

The WaterReuse Association is a not-for-profit trade association for water utilities, businesses, industrial and commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations, and research entities that engage in and on water recycling. WaterReuse and its state and regional sections represent more than 200 water utilities serving over 60 million customers, and over 300 businesses and organizations across the country. The Association strongly supports your legislation, H.R. 1162, and looks forward to working with you to move it forward.

The USBR's Title XVI program is the only federal program with water reuse as its sole focus. Since Title XVI's inception in 1992, Congress has authorized 53 Title XVI recycling projects producing more than 400,000 acre-feet of drought-resistant water supply. To date, Congress has appropriated approximately \$672 million in federal funding which has been leveraged with non-federal funding to implement more than \$3.3 billion in water reuse improvements – a nearly 5:1 leverage ratio.

In 2016, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act established a mechanism, colloquially known as Title XVI-WIIN, to enable new projects to apply for competitive grants within Title XVI. Prior to this new competitive grants authorization, all Title XVI projects were individually selected and appropriated by Congress. Due to the popularity of Title XVI-WIIN in its first few years, the program now has a large and growing backlog equal to \$528 million in federal cost share for eligible projects, and demand is expected to grow as more projects become eligible.

Water projects funded through the Title XVI program have been used to increase the supply of fresh drinking water, generate sustainable irrigation water for landscaping and agricultural use, and help industries expand and create jobs, among other purposes. The program is not limited to the reuse of municipal wastewater – it also helps

communities identify beneficial uses for industrial, agricultural, and domestic wastewater, as well as impaired ground and surface water. Investments through the Title XVI competitive grants program have helped both urban and rural communities across the West build a strong and secure economic future.

A recent GAO report (GAO-19-110) highlighted a number of illustrative Title XVI projects. For example, program investments helped one drought-stricken water district in California develop infrastructure to store more than 2 billion gallons of reused water, which it uses to irrigate sports fields, golf courses, parks, school grounds, and medians. Another project is providing drought-resistant recycled water to farmers to irrigate 45,000 acres of farmland, reducing demand on the area's overdrafted groundwater basin. Other TXVI projects have been used to cool power plants, deal with saltwater intrusion issues, restore marshes, wetlands, and other habitat, and create potable drinking water.

The impacts of this program are deep and broad, and we look forward to working with you to reauthorize and fund it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Patricia Sinicropi  
Executive Director  
WaterReuse Association





Western Recycled Water Coalition: A Collaborative Approach to Developing Sustainable Supplies

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
United States House of Representatives  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1162, WATER RECYCLING INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

On behalf of the Western Recycled Water Coalition (WRWC), I'm writing in support of H.R. 1162, the *Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act*. The WRWC is a partnership of 17 cities, water and wastewater districts, and investor-owned water utilities developing recycled water projects that will provide drought-resistant water supplies in California and Hawaii. Passage of your legislation will provide much needed financial assistance opportunities to move these and other critical water supply projects forward.

While the WIIN Act of 2016 provided a new pathway for recycled water funding, your legislation will provide the necessary program improvements and funding authorization to make the program efficient and of great assistance to local agencies developing recycled water supplies.

Thank you for providing these improvements to the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program. Your continued leadership and support for development of sustainable water supplies is commendable and appreciated. We strongly support your efforts and look forward to working with you and others to support passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jayne Strommer  
Executive Director  
Western Recycled Water Coalition

cc: Joe Sheehy, Legislative Director, Office of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano  
[joe.sheehy@mail.house.gov](mailto:joe.sheehy@mail.house.gov)  
Morgan Leonard, Legislative Assistant, Office of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano  
[Morgan.leonard@mail.house.gov](mailto:Morgan.leonard@mail.house.gov)



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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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STEPHEN R. SHELDON  
  
General Manager  
MICHAEL R. MARKUS, P.E., D.WRE

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Grace P. Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1162)

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

The Orange County Water District writes to express its support of the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1162), a bill that would enhance our shared priority of developing sustainable water supplies in the western United States.

Under H.R. 1162, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WIIN Title XVI program would be reauthorized at \$500 million over five years, providing a reasonable and appropriate funding level given the substantial demand for water recycling project assistance as demonstrated by the extensive list of feasible projects. The bill would also make an important adjustment to the spending cap imposed upon project assistance, for the first time since Title XVI was enacted into law, raising funding to \$30,000,000. Finally, we agree with the legislation's provision to clarify that once a project is deemed feasible and competes for actual construction assistance that funding should be made available without further congressional approval. Current law has been interpreted to require congressional approval of the competitively awarded project assistance despite the fact that appropriations have been provided to the program. This additional step serves to delay and increase project costs with little perceived benefit.

Again, we deeply appreciate your years of leadership to advance the use of water recycling and your specific support of our efforts that made the Groundwater Replenishment System a reality. We look forward to assisting you as H.R. 1162 progresses through Congress. If you have any questions or we may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at [adunkin@ocwd.com](mailto:adunkin@ocwd.com) or (714) 378-8232.

Sincerely,

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.  
President





THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Grace Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's SUPPORT for H.R. 1162: the Water Recycling and Investment Act of 2019

Dear Representative Napolitano:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1162, the Water Recycling and Investment Act of 2019. We applaud your bold leadership on these milestone policy goals.

Metropolitan is the regional wholesaler to 26 member agencies, which along with their retail suppliers collectively serve quality drinking water to over 19 million Southern Californians – one out of every two Californians – throughout the 5,200 square-mile, six-county service area. Many of our member agencies rely on the funding provided by federal programs to enable them to implement innovative water supply solutions throughout our service area in ways that are responsive to their local supply conditions. Robust, diverse funding sources are essential to ensure continued reliability and resiliency needed to protect California's vibrant economy and quality of life in the face of changing hydrology due to shifting climate conditions.

This timely and thoughtful legislation, if enacted, would expand the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Grant Program through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act to a funding level of \$500 million, increase the federal cost share to \$30 million, remove the requirements for projects to be in drought or disaster areas and to be specifically named in legislation. H.R.1162 would remove the sunset for the WIIN Act, making that landmark legislation permanent. Metropolitan supports all of these policy changes. Additionally, we encourage you to consider clarifying language to ensure that eligible projects which meet multiple policy priorities and/or deliver benefits across multiple jurisdictions, receive the highest funding priority.

It is our hope that H.R. 1162 will be scheduled for prompt action in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. As always, Metropolitan stands at the ready to be a resource to you and your staff as this important measure moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Kightlinger", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeffrey Kightlinger  
General Manager







## COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998  
Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422  
www.lacsd.org

GRACE ROBINSON HYDE  
Chief Engineer and General Manager

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Grace P. Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Longworth House Office Building 1610  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Napolitano:

### **H.R. 1162: The Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act: Support Position**

On behalf of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, I am pleased to write in support of H.R. 1162, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act. The Sanitation Districts appreciate your long-standing leadership to create a robust federal commitment in support of recycled water infrastructure. By way of background, the Sanitation Districts provide wastewater and solid waste services to approximately 5.6 million people in 78 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. The Sanitation Districts own and operate 11 wastewater facilities, and supply approximately 100,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water to our local water purveyors. We greatly appreciate the continued federal commitment to recycled water infrastructure and want to emphasize how helpful it is to our local communities.

The proposed authorization in H.R. 1162 of \$500 million for the WIIN Act Title XVI funding program would provide a greatly needed boost in funding. In California, the demand for recycled water is very strong, and seems to grow every year. Accordingly, the need for financial support for development of recycled water infrastructure is growing as well. These investments are leveraged with State and local funding, thereby stretching the federal funding to the greatest extent possible.

Again, we salute your longstanding leadership on water recycling and we look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Very truly yours,

Grace Robinson Hyde

GRH:SNG:djm

cc: House Natural Resources Committee,  
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

DOC 4994274





President – Cheryl Zittle  
Vice President – Christine Arbogast  
Treasurer – Tom Myrum  
Executive Vice President – Ian Lyle

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
Congresswoman  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

Congresswoman Napolitano,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), I write in support of The Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1162).

The NWRA is a nonprofit federation made up of agricultural and municipal water providers, state associations, hydropower producers, and individuals dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and efficient management of our nation's most important natural resource, water. Our members provide water to more than 50 Americans and millions of acres of irrigated agricultural. This water is critical to the health of our communities and our economy.

As water managers, our members know the importance of having a reliable water supply today and for many years to come. Ensuring this water supply will require an all of the above approach to water resource management that includes storage, technology, and the continued use of water recycling and reuse. The Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Program is a valuable tool in meeting water supply needs. H.R. 1162 will help ensure water for future generations by allowing continued investments in water recycling and reuse projects that would expand our available water supply.

Grants offered through the Title XVI Program can help provide the certainty necessary to make long-term water management plans that are critical to the economic viability and sustainability of communities in the West.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to enact The Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I Lyle", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ian Lyle  
Executive Vice President  
National Water Resources Association





Bringing  
Water  
Together

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Chair – Water, Oceans, and Wildlife  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1527 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock  
Ranking Member – Water, Oceans, and Wildlife  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Huffman and Representative McClintock:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is pleased to support the “Water Recycling and Investment Act”, H.R. 1162. ACWA’s 455 public water agency members supply over 90 percent of the water delivered in California for residential, agricultural, and industrial uses.

This legislation would increase authorization of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Title XVI program for water recycling and reuse projects to \$500 million. In the words of Representative Grace Napolitano, “The Bureau of Reclamation’s Title XVI water recycling programs have been proven to be the most costeffective in improving water supply, by providing long-term savings while boosting job growth and lowering our reliance on imported water. As we work to explore new ways to expand our water portfolio and safeguard our local communities from future water shortages and drought, it is imperative that we continue to adequately fund, promote, and expand water recycling infrastructure projects.”

ACWA appreciates yours as well as Representative Napolitano’s leadership on this issue and looks forward to the advancement of H.R. 1162 this Congress. If there is any way we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact our DC Office at 202-434-4760.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David L. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Reynolds  
Director of Federal Relations

cc: Representative Grace Napolitano

