<p style="text-align:center">Congressman Pete Aguilar (CA-31)
Written Testimony
House Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
Water Resources Development Act of 2022: Member Day Hearing
Wednesday, March 16, 2022</p>

I want to thank Chairwoman Napolitano and Ranking Member Rouzer for holding this Member Day hearing on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022, and allowing me to speak about some of the projects I submitted that will benefit my constituents in California's 31st Congressional District.

Seven Oaks Dam

First, the Seven Oaks Dam is one of the largest embankment dams in the United States. It was proposed in response to major floods in the mid-twentieth century and constructed between 1993 and 2000 to provide flood protection to San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties. The reservoir has a gross storage capacity of 145,600 acre-feet with a 113,000 acre-feet reserve for flood control. Since its construction, the dam has not been filled to capacity.

Under the dam's original project authorization, the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, the dam was only authorized for a single purpose—flood control. However, the Seven Oaks Dam has the infrastructure and technical design to serve as a multi-use dam. The Water Resources Development Act of 2020 authorized and directed a feasibility study to add water conservation as an authorized purpose for the dam. Since this feasibility study, I urge the Committee to add water conservation as an authorized purpose for the dam. By adding water conservation as an authorized component, the dam and reservoir would be used more efficiently and would provide a greater benefit to the community.

Environmental Infrastructure Requests

Similar to Community Project Funding in the Appropriations process, I am happy to see that the Committee created a pathway to carry out water-related environmental infrastructure projects in WRDA.

The first environmental infrastructure project that I request the Committee consider is the Bohnert Septic to Sewer Conversion Project. This project will connect about 150 septic tanks to a municipal sewer in Rialto, California and address the community's concerns of the septic tanks overflowing into the streets, contaminating the groundwater and causing health issues for the community. A feasibility study and Preliminary Design Report have been completed for the project and the Los Angeles District of the US Army Corps of Engineers has confirmed that this project is compatible with the purpose of environmental infrastructure projects.

The second environmental infrastructure project that I submitted with Congresswoman Norma Torres is the Rialto Wastewater Plant Microgrid Project in Rialto and Bloomington, California. This project will implement a microgrid powered through a unique combination of biogas

cogeneration, solar power and backup battery storage to reliably supply electricity for the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The Rialto Microgrid is designed to keep residents' wastewater utility rates in check, reduce climate emissions and provide ecosystem restoration and emergency management benefits to the local community. As wildfire season becomes year-long in California, the resilience of the microgrid power source will be important for the Inland Empire to work towards achieving greater energy independence.

Ensuring that future generations have clean air and water is one of the most important responsibilities we have as a country. The projects I requested in WRDA 2022 are essential to mitigating flood risk for residents, reducing climate emissions and improving air quality for the Inland Empire. I will continue fighting for additional resources to help support projects in the Inland Empire that protect our residents' environmental health.

I want to close by once again thanking the Members of this Committee for working on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022. I look forward to continuing my work with each of you as you develop WRDA 2022.