

**Written Testimony  
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
Congressman Tom O'Halleran  
March 14, 2022**

**Member Day Testimony – Water Resources Development Act of 2022**

I want to thank Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves for allowing for member testimony regarding the 2022 Water Resources Development Act. Improving water infrastructure is critical in Arizona as the entire Southwest is suffering from extended drought conditions. In August 2021, the federal government declared a water shortage at Lake Mead, one of the Colorado River's main reservoirs for the first time. This has resulted in Tier 1 reductions, resulting in potential reductions for the state of Arizona, counties and localities, and tribal communities. I would like to the importance of three projects to Pinal County, Arizona.

**Welton Wash**

During heavy storms, a small community of 55 homes and properties in a Dudleyville residential neighborhood experiences serious flooding, making roadways impassable and cutting off the community from basic and emergency services. A study identified a recommended solution that entails construction of a detention basin north of the community on State Route 77 and a channel to convey flows from that basin to the San Pedro River. The County is currently performing a survey of the area and will soon begin to acquire the easements necessary to implement the flood mitigation solution. Federal funding from Section 205 of approximately \$5.5 million will be necessary to complete the project.

**Ak-Chin Levee/Channel**

The Santa Cruz River, its tributaries and other river systems in the County have a long history of producing catastrophic flows during major storms, resulting in severe damage to farms, housing, communities, businesses, and infrastructure across the region. A 2010 Data Collection Report found that 34 major flood events have occurred on the river since the late 1800s, roughly one every 4 years, with 6 of the 7 largest flood events occurring in the last 50 years. The USACE study found that a levee or channel constructed east of the Ak-Chin reservation would be effective in mitigating future flood damage. Project costs are estimated to be less than \$10 million, and as such, it is a good fit for funding from the USACE's Section 205 Continuing Authorities Program.

**Pinal County – Santa Rosa Canal**

The 56-mile Santa Rosa Canal delivers Colorado River water through the Central Arizona Project (CAP) to agricultural and tribal lands in Pinal County, Arizona. SRC is federally owned, with the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage district operating and maintaining the Canal and associated facilities under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. This proposal would construct alternative conveyance facilities for the Districts' groundwater in lieu of continued use of the Santa

Rosa Canal for delivery of that supply. The estimated cost is \$17.8 million (\$10.9 million to \$14.2 million for construction, \$3.6 million for design and administration).

Thank you for the consideration of my requests and please contact Adam Finkel on my staff at [Adam.Finkel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Adam.Finkel@mail.house.gov).