

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Estevan Lopez
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Lopez:

We are writing to express our support for the Sweetwater Authority's application for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse funding to expand the Richard A. Reynolds Desalination Facility.

The Sweetwater Authority, a public drinking water agency, operates the Reynolds Facility to desalinate 3,600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water. The Authority is requesting \$8,950,000 as the Federal share for increasing the output of the Facility to 8,800 AFY. The City of San Diego is partnering with Sweetwater Authority in the expansion and will receive half of the additional water produced.

The Reynolds Facility expansion will increase the reliable source of drinking water in the region for our constituents. In addition, the project will provide numerous benefits to the entire region, including reducing dependence on imported water, thus relieving pressure on the Colorado River and San Francisco Bay-San Joaquin River Delta. This will in turn support Federal environmental restoration goals in the Bay-Delta, mitigate the impacts of potential expanding drought and reduced snowpack and mitigate any potential impacts of planned or emergency water supply interruption.

The Reynolds Facility is part of the Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI authorized San Diego Area Water Reclamation program, which promotes the treatment and use of previously non-potable or unusable local water supplies by a set of water agencies in San Diego County. Bureau of Reclamation funding will thus continue an ongoing partnership in the region and help ensure the development and implementation of sustainable water strategies.

We hope you will give this request full and fair consideration on the merits, in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress