



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

March 5, 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Legislation authorizing funding source for Indian Water Settlement Agreements

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

It is a pleasure for Metropolitan to comment favorably on your draft legislation authorizing the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to provide a specific line item for purposes of funding Indian water settlement agreements.

Federal funding is essential to ensure settlement agreements negotiated between agencies and the nation's many bands of Indians and tribes are enacted. It is also essential to assure funding for the Bureau's core mission of providing water and power to the nation's western states continues without interruption. A specific line item for tribal water settlement agreements would provide greater certainty to the Bureau's budget and help protect ongoing funding needs for all water resource projects within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

We welcome the opportunity to work with your office to advance this proposal to assure settlement funding is available until such time it is no longer needed.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting Metropolitan and other water provider stakeholders to provide comments on this important proposal. Under your leadership, we believe there is an opportunity to provide a good-government solution to the existing challenge of providing a long-term source of funding for Indian water settlement agreements, for which there is great need and significant support.

Please let me know if Metropolitan can be a resource to you and your staff as this legislation advances in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger".

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager