



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

June 2, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S.3811, the Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is pleased to support S.3811, the Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act, and thanks you for your leadership on this issue.

Metropolitan is the regional wholesale water provider for the six-county, 5,200 square mile region of Southern California serving about 19 million people through its 26 member agencies and their retail providers. Metropolitan supplies roughly 30 percent of the region's water supply from the State Water Project (SWP). The California Aqueduct, a critical part of the SWP that carries water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California, has suffered a reduction in capacity as a result of land subsidence along the aqueduct. In addition to lost capacity, continued subsidence will increase pumping costs to operate the project.

S. 3811, the Restoration of Essential Conveyance Act, authorizes \$600 million in federal funding for three major projects to repair California's water delivery systems which have experienced reduced conveyance capacity as a result of subsidence along the canals. The bill provides \$200 million for the Friant-Kern Canal, \$200 million for the Delta-Mendota Canal, and \$200 million for the California Aqueduct. Both groundwater overdraft and drought have contributed to subsidence in these areas, and federal support is needed to restore the capacity of California's water delivery systems.

Additionally, the bill provides \$200 million in funding for restoration of the San Joaquin River, including environmentally protective infrastructure such as fish screens, fish bypass projects, and control structures necessary to successfully implement the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.

Thank you for your consistent and effective leadership on water issues. Your tireless efforts in pursuit of water supply reliability continue to contribute to a thriving, vibrant California.

Sincerely,

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

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

The Honorable Diane Feinstein

June 2, 2020

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cc: The Honorable Kamala Harris
Southern California Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Jim Costa
The Honorable TJ Cox
The Honorable John Garamendi
The Honorable Josh Harder