

DRAFT LETTER TO HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Dear _____:

The California Water Commission, whose mission is to support projects and programs that further the development of sustainable water resources management and a healthy environment in California, respectfully requests your support of comprehensive federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation.

The bipartisan bill approved by the Senate in May will help modernize and preserve our nation's critical water infrastructure, provide critical flood protection, fund innovation in water management, and protect ecosystems and habitat. We urge the House to continue the momentum to advance the federal government's strategic investments in our nation's water future.

One of the statutory responsibilities of the California Water Commission is to present information to Congress on appropriations for flood control projects under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and reclamation projects planned by the Bureau of Reclamation. In recent years, the state, federal and local governments in our state have made significant progress to improve flood management and protection, especially in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley which has one of the highest flood risks in the country. However, as outlined in the recently-released *California's Flood Future Report* prepared by the Department of Water Resources, there still exists an immediate need for more than \$50 billion to complete flood management improvements and projects in the state, or face tremendous loss of life, property, infrastructure and ecosystems from the inevitable flooding. The federal government, working with state and local agencies, must take steps now to reduce risk and lay the groundwork for long-term solutions. Passage of a WRDA bill will go a long way toward meeting these objectives.

In addition to flood protection and related investments, California is on a path of significant progress in water management including implementing statewide conservation requirements for urban users and agriculture, significant state and local investments in infrastructure and integrated water management, and a proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan to help meet the co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability for 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland. We strongly urge the passage of a WRDA bill that will provide funding and improve the federal-state coordination and cooperation in managing our vital water infrastructure resources.

Sincerely,

Joseph Byrne
Chairman, California Water Commission