



January 6, 2016

The Honorable Estevan López
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C St NW # 7654
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner López:

Congress recently appropriated additional funds for the Bureau of Reclamation to address the Western drought. As you consider how to allocate those funds, we write to urge you to utilize a portion in support of water reuse research and infrastructure. We would be happy to meet with you to further discuss these matters.

Many water reuse and recycling projects can be brought online quickly and effectively. Drought stricken states would undoubtedly receive the greatest benefit. Additionally, investing in water reuse systems will provide drought proof, sustainable supplies of water not only for this drought, but for future droughts and water shortages as well.

Reuse is an economical way to address these water shortages. In a new WaterReuse Research Foundation White Paper entitled "*The Opportunities and Economics of Direct Potable Reuse*" (WRRF-14-08), Drs. Robert S. Raucher of Stratus Consulting and George Tchobanoglous of the University of California, Davis found that potable water reuse is generally less expensive than—or comparable in cost to—the potential alternative sources of new water supply available to communities in places such as California.

Many local water-managers across the country have realized that recycled water has a role in their communities. A recent nationwide recycled water project survey undertaken by the WaterReuse Association in conjunction with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and the Western Recycled Water Coalition, documented that 92 agencies in 14 states across the country are developing recycled water projects that will provide over 900,000 acre-feet of additional water supply. These public agencies are currently investing in recycled water projects totaling over \$6 billion. Though much of the work is already underway, almost half of these projects still require some level of federal financial support in order to proceed with construction to deliver benefits.

Finally, reuse practices are readily available and used effectively in water distribution systems around the world. Funding reuse projects will have a direct, immediate, and large impact on extending limited water supplies during current drought conditions, improve water supply reliability, improve water deliveries, enhance national, regional, and local economic development, promote job growth and address critical backlog maintenance and rehabilitation activities.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

WaterReuse Association

National Association Clean Water Agencies

American Public Works Association

National Association of Water Companies

Water Environment Federation

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

American Water Works Association

Association of California Water Agencies