



February 3, 2021

Dear Representative Napolitano:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) writes to express our support for the reintroduction of the Water Resources Investment and Improvement Act. CASA appreciates your continued leadership to ensure that the Title XVI Program is authorized at sufficient levels to address the pressing water security needs in the West. As an association that represents more than 125 local public agencies engaged in collecting, treating, and recycling wastewater to ensure the protection of public health and the environment, CASA and our members understand firsthand that the need to meet the current and future water supply and security challenges in California and the rest of the West is of the essence. As Congress looks to develop a comprehensive infrastructure investment package, CASA urges that the investment provisions of the Water Resources Investment and Improvement Act be included in any future legislative initiatives.

Since its creation in 2016, the Title XVI Program has proven to be a successful financing tool for wastewater utilities to build critical reuse projects that help harden community water supplies against the adverse impacts of climate change and droughts. The program's flexibility for how an awarded utility may use funding is also key to its success, allowing a utility to use funding to support project planning and construction costs. The overall outcome is reliable reclaimed water that can be used to support recreational, irrigation, and drinking water supplies, as well as improve water conservation activities. However, the current program authorization of \$50 million is insufficient to meet the growing water security demands within California and the other sixteen Western states. Your legislation recognizes this shortfall and increases the authorization to \$500 million to address not just current needs, but future needs as well.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support the clean water sector and the reintroduction of the Water Resources Investment and Improvement Act. If CASA can be a resource for you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me at [alink@casaweb.org](mailto:alink@casaweb.org) or (916) 446-0388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Link", written in a cursive style.

Adam Link  
Executive Director