

July 27, 2020



Kerry Schmitz, Chair  
Sean Bigley, Vice Chair

**Members**

California American Water  
Carmichael Water District  
Citrus Heights Water District  
Del Paso Manor Water District  
El Dorado Irrigation District  
Elk Grove Water District  
Fair Oaks Water District  
Folsom, City of  
Golden State Water Company  
Lincoln, City of  
Orange Vale Water Company  
Placer County Water Agency  
Rancho Murieta Community Services District  
Roseville, City of  
Sacramento, City of  
Sacramento County Water Agency  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
San Juan Water District  
West Sacramento, City of  
Yuba City, City of

**Associates**

County of Placer  
El Dorado County Water Agency  
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chair  
House Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for Changes to H.R. 7617 that Advance Water Storage Projects**

Dear Chair Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chair Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson,

On behalf of the Regional Water Authority (RWA), I write in support of changes to H.R. 7617 that clarify that the much delayed funding of water supply projects will proceed with certainty in fiscal year 2021.

RWA is a joint power agency representing 20 public water suppliers in the greater Sacramento, CA region that combined serves drinking water to 2 million people. Our mission is to protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources for our members.

On June 22, 2020, Assistant Secretary for Water and Power Timothy Petty transmitted the Department of the Interior's water supply storage project funding recommendations to the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2021 as required under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), Section 4007. The recommendations included the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. This water storage project will leverage the region's water resources and ensure a sustainable and environmentally protective approach to improve water reliability for the entire Sacramento region.

RWA is concerned that H.R. 7617's current language will prohibit the obligation of funding recommended by the Department of the Interior. The language is included on page 212 under the section 4007 provision and states "*Provided further, That no funds may be obligated or expended for the projects specified in the preceding proviso until the Secretary of the Interior transmits recommendations to Congress for projects authorized under sections 4009(a) and 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) and the Congress enacts a subsequent appropriations act making appropriations for energy and water development.*"

Letter to Chair Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chair Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson  
RE: Support for Changes to H.R. 7617 that Advance Water Storage Projects  
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RWA believes the bill language imposes a new and unrelated criterion on the award of federal assistance that will only serve to delay funding to the detriment of recommend projects, like the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, for reasons wholly unrelated to them.

The Sacramento Regional Water Bank is an innovative groundwater storage program that will allow the region to sustainably increase its use of groundwater as a local water source during dry periods, allowing reduced surface water diversions to help meet local needs. The Water Bank has been identified as a primary resiliency investment to adapt to climate change through many years of inclusive regional planning by local stakeholders. The Water Bank continues the region's commitment to the principles of the Sacramento Water Forum, a diverse, multi-stakeholder regional organization established more than two decades ago to promote and implement sustainable water management practices such as conjunctive use that balance water supply needs and the environmental health of the lower American River. In addition, the region's location north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta could leverage the Water Bank by providing potential opportunities to collaborate and develop solutions to benefit the environment and communities downstream after local needs are met.

We urge your support of changes to the Energy and Water Development title of H.R. 7617 to ensure timely construction of sustainable storage projects, like the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, that will help our region and others throughout the west improve drought resiliency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Peifer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

James Peifer  
Executive Director