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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY
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October 13, 2023

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Capito,

I write to thank you for your support of important water infrastructure investments and ask for your consideration of the below priorities in the 2024 Water Resources Development Act.

The Water Resources Development Act is critical for ensuring the resiliency of our nation's water infrastructure, especially in the face of the climate crisis and as California faces particular vulnerabilities to atmospheric river storms, flooding, drought, and sea-level rise. The scale of these challenges in my state is reflected in the number of projects authorized, constructed, and operated by USACE South Pacific Division and three District offices located in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco. The below requests have strong local support and will provide critical flood protection to Californian communities and improve navigation efficiencies and prospective commerce for the entire nation.

I write in support of the below new Environmental Infrastructure (EI) authorizations and budget authority modifications to existing EI authorizations.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the 2024 Water Resources Development Act, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the below Environmental Infrastructure requests and I look forward to working with you on developing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

AP/ae

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Construction—New Environmental Infrastructure Authorizations

- **Tijuana River and New River, California**—Recipient: NA (Geographic Location); Purpose: Establish a new $310 million Environmental Infrastructure authorization to address Tijuana and New Rivers transboundary sewage solutions, including to treat raw sewage that is degrading U.S. Navy readiness, harming the health of Customs and Border Protection agents, U.S. Coast Guardsmen, and millions of Americans in Southern California, and has closed local beaches for more than 600 days in a row.

- **Bay-Delta Habitat Restoration**—Recipient: Floodplain Forward Coalition; Purpose: Authorize the Secretary to provide environmental assistance to non-federal signatories to the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, California, dated March 29, 2022. The assistance provided under the authority would be in the form of planning, engineering, design, resource monitoring, and construction support to non-Federal water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in the watersheds covered by the agreement, including projects for ecosystem and habitat restoration.

- **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**—Recipient: Indian Wells Valley Water District; Purpose: Authorize New EI authorization for $150 million in order to construct a 50-mile pipeline to connect the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency facilities to water storage tanks, which will provide additional imported water supplies to Indian Wells Valley Water District facilities for distribution to 36,000 residents of the Indian Wells Valley, most of whom are U.S. Naval personnel that work at the United States Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a critical weapons research and low-flight operations installation.

- **Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Project**—Recipient: City of Alameda; Purpose: Authorize New EI Authorization for the Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Project to improve sea-level rise and flooding resiliency for portions of downtown Oakland/Jack London Square and Alameda's northern shoreline areas near Marina Village, which are vulnerable to flooding under extreme high tides. With future sea level rise, a majority of the project area is expected to be inundated by daily tides.

Construction—Budget Authority Modifications to Existing EI Authorizations

- **Calaveras County Wastewater Treatment Facility**—Recipient: Calaveras County Water District; Purpose: Increase existing EI authorization from $13,280,000 to $16,300,000 to reflect increased costs associated with upgrading the treatment and filtration capabilities at the Copper Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant and Reclamation Facility, which services approximately 1,800 sewer connections in Copperopolis, California.

- **Marin County, California**—Recipient: Marin Water; Purpose: Increase existing EI authorization from $28 million to $60 million. Severe conditions brought on by the drought over the past several years have intensified Marin Water's focus on strengthening the reliability of its water supply. Starting in February 2022, the Strategic Water Supply Assessment evaluated Marin

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Water's current baseline water supply in the context of climate-change-driven droughts and the impact of potential future water management alternatives that could improve the District's long-term water supply resiliency. Subsequent to the enactment of the 2022 WRDA, it has become clear that a more ambitious plan of additional storage and conveyance infrastructure will yield additional water to be available in dry years for Marin Water as well as, potentially, create a regional water supply benefit for other Russian River contractors. This authorization increase would support the dedicated conveyance enhancements (to 37MGD capacity) needed to move water from the Cotati area to the Marin Water reservoir system and maximize this regional supply benefit.

- **East Bay Municipal Utility District, Alameda and Costa Counties**—Recipient: East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD); Purpose: Increase existing EI authorization from $25 million to $45 million for recycled water treatment facilities within EBMUD's service area. Recycled water use is a critical element of EBMUD's water supply management policies, as any demand met with recycled water reduces the demand for limited drinking water supplies.

- **Eastern Municipal Water District, Perris, CA**—Recipient: Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD); Purpose: Increase EI authorization from $50 million to $100 million in order to double the capacity of the Perris II Desalination Treatment Facility from 5.4 million gallons to 10.8 million gallons of potable water per day. EMWD's expanding desalter program produces potable water from otherwise unusable brackish groundwater from the Perris South Groundwater Sub-basin and will further reduce EMWD's reliance on imported water from the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and the Colorado River by creating an expanded local source of water for its customers, which includes nearly one million residents in western Riverside County.

- **Malibu Civic Center Water Treatment Facility**—Recipient: City of Malibu; Purpose: Increase existing EI authorization from $3 million to $65 million to reflect increased costs associated with Phase 2 of the Malibu Civic Center Water Treatment Facility project and to comply with the State and Regional Water Board's septic prohibition in the Malibu Civic Area. The project would expand the capacity to treat from 190,000 gallon to 350,000 gallons of wastewater per day, and provide for the construction of recycled water pump stations and new transmission mains. The project will also protect the Malibu Valley groundwater basin against saltwater intrusion due to sea-level rise by discharging treated effluent directly into the basin.