



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
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CLERK OF THE BOARD
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Dan Charlton

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R.1848 Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow's America Act

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) writes to support the Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow's America Act (LIFT America Act), H.R.1848. CVWD hopes to see the Committee on Energy and Commerce consider the legislation during committee hearings and markups in the upcoming months as infrastructure package negotiations continue to unfold. This comprehensive infrastructure package provides the next step for modernizing our nation's aging infrastructure to bring it into the 21st century for the next several generations. Importantly to CVWD, the legislation provides \$51.6 billion to support the country's drinking water.

In 1918, Coachella Valley Water District was created to protect and conserve water primarily for agricultural irrigation. Today, CVWD's service area covers approximately 1,000 square miles from the San Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, mostly within Riverside County and includes portions of Imperial and San Diego counties. CVWD is a multifaceted agency that provides diverse water services, including: irrigation and drainage, drinking water service, groundwater the type of the project the legislation aims to assist.

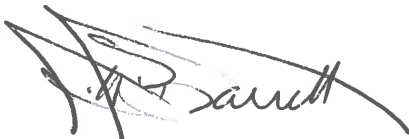
CVWD relies on the federal government for the funding of large-scale projects. As such, it is critical for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to be reauthorized and with higher appropriations each year. The nearly \$25.5 billion in funding for the SRF will make an impactful difference to communities across the country. In the past, CVWD utilized the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to fund the installation of 1,000 feet of water pipe in Thermal near Highway 86 and Avenue 66 to provide water to rural mobile home parks. Projects like this one benefit the health of the community by ensuring clean and safe drinking water for generations. It is critical to continue to authorize significant funding for our federal government's most used water programs.

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Additionally, CVWD is supportive of the \$2.5 billion over five years in funding for community water systems to pay for the implementation of eligible treatment technologies for PFAS. PFAS affects water communities throughout the country, and the federal government needs to implement a program to financially support water districts as EPA develops regulation standards for the chemical group. If water agencies are to receive no federal support for implementing filtration technology, water agencies will be left in significant debt as the filtration systems are costly. This could also result in water rates going up, which are already causing strain on households from the West to East coast.

CVWD is grateful for your collaborative leadership on modernizing infrastructure. This bill will greatly aid water districts like CVWD, as well as broadband, health care, and clean energy entities in need of revitalizing their infrastructure. Now is the time to invest in America's infrastructure in order to combat climate change, drought, and energy shortages. CVWD will continue to support this bill as it moves through the legislative process and looks forward to working with the Committee.

Sincerely,



J. M. Barrett
General Manager