



Bringing  
Water  
Together

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support for including the Water Supply Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Utilization Act (S. 2044, McSally) as an amendment to the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422, Gardner)**

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) I write to request you support the inclusion of SEC. 2 of S. 2044, the Water Supply Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Utilization Act, as an amendment to S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). Senator McSally is planning on offering this provision as amendment when the legislation is considered on the Senate floor.

This amendment is critically important to our nation's water resources.

ACWA knows the importance of water to our nation. ACWA's 455 public water agency members supply over 90 percent of the water delivered in California for residential, agricultural, and municipal uses.

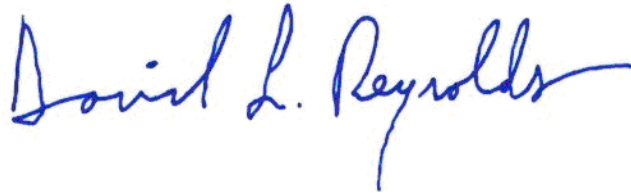
This amendment would establish a revolving loan account to address extraordinary maintenance backlogs within the Department of the Interior's primary water management agency, the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau of Reclamation is our nation's largest wholesale water provider and is facing significant maintenance backlog issues.

The Great American Outdoors Act, provides deferred maintenance for every federal asset agency within the Department of the Interior except the Bureau of Reclamation. Just like the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation is facing significant issues with deferred and extraordinary maintenance needs at federally owned water facilities.

According to the Bureau of Reclamation, "Major Repair and Rehabilitation" (MR&R) over the next five years (FY 2021-2025) is approximately \$3.8 billion. The revolving loan fund that Senator McSally's amendment would establish, known as the "Aging Infrastructure Account," would allow water managers to access funds for outstanding maintenance needs and improve federally owned facilities. The account would be established with \$400 million annually over 5 years. This is seed money, it would be repaid by water users through the loan process and made available to address future needs.

Establishing a loan program to invest in aging water infrastructure would have significant safety, conservation, and economic benefits. We have an opportunity to address pressing maintenance needs within all of the resource management agencies at the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Reclamation, and encourage you to support this amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David L. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

David Reynolds  
Director of Federal Relations, ACWA

CC:

The Honorable Martha McSally, United States Senate  
The Honorable Cory Gardner, United States Senate  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee