



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
 The Speaker of the House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: **Recommendations for Water Related Investments in California**

Dear Senators Feinstein and Padilla and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the above urban water agencies, environmental organizations, and fishing groups, we write to offer the attached joint recommendations for future federal investments related to California water. As Congress considers possible additional federal funding related to infrastructure, we urge you to consider investments in California water solutions that enjoy broad stakeholder support and that are likely to both reduce conflicts over water supply and rapidly ensure clean drinking water supplies for all Californians.

Given that this is a broad coalition, with differing missions and areas of expertise, not every organization or agency in the coalition is actively engaged in every issue reflected in the attached recommendations. However, all signatory organizations agree that this framework represents a thoughtful approach to prioritizing critical investments that will enhance the future sustainability of our water supply to meet the needs of California's diverse and growing population, while restoring and maintaining the health of its environment.

As the attached recommendations indicate, investments in California water solutions can offer a wide range of benefits, including job creation, water supply reliability, water quality improvements, ecosystem restoration, and resilience to climate change impacts. In turn, these benefits promise to generate improved social equity and reduced conflict over water. The attached document also summarizes the principles that were used to generate these recommendations.

Thank you for considering our recommendations, which address multiple challenges currently facing California and the nation. If you have any questions related to these recommendations, please contact Barry Nelson with the Golden State Salmon Association ([barry@westernwaterstrategies.com](mailto:barry@westernwaterstrategies.com)) and Glenn Farrel with the San Diego County Water Authority ([gfarrel@sdcwa.org](mailto:gfarrel@sdcwa.org)).

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Kerl,  
General Manager  
San Diego County Water Authority

John McManus,  
President  
Golden State Salmon Association

Chris Garner,  
General Manager  
Long Beach Water Department

Jay Ziegler,  
Director of Policy and External Affairs  
The Nature Conservancy

Mitchell S. Dion,  
Assistant General Manager  
Pasadena Water & Power

Rachel Zwillinger,  
Water Policy Advisor  
Defenders of Wildlife

Bart Broome,  
Director, State Government Relations  
Valley Water

Grant Davis,  
General Manager  
Sonoma Water

James Peifer,  
Executive Director  
Regional Water Authority

Clifford C. Chan  
General Manager  
East Bay Municipal Utility District

David W. Pedersen,  
General Manager  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Richard F. Harasick,  
Sr. Assistant General Manager – Water System  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Mati Waiya,  
Executive Director  
Wishtoyo Foundation

Gordon R. Hensley,  
Executive Director  
San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper

Meghan Hertel,  
Director, Land and Water Conservation  
Audubon California

Kathryn Phillips,  
Director  
Sierra Club California

Jon Rosenfield,  
Senior Scientist  
San Francisco Baykeeper

Barbara Barrigan Parilla,  
Executive Director  
Restore the Delta

Gary Bobker,  
Director  
The Bay Institute

Eric Wesselman,  
Executive Director  
Friends of the River

Jason Weiner,  
Senior Counsel  
Ventura CoastKeeper

Carin High,  
Co-Chair  
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge