

March 5, 2019

The Honorable Grace P. Napolitano  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), writes in support of the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 (H.R. 1497) that you are cosponsoring with Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio. CASA deeply appreciates your long-standing leadership to ensure that we have a robust federal commitment to support clean water agencies' infrastructure needs. The introduction of H.R. 1497, with its bipartisan support, represents an important step toward the enactment of water infrastructure assistance.

In California, the need for water infrastructure assistance is overwhelming. USEPA's most recent survey of needs (Clean Watersheds 2012) reveals that California agencies require more than \$26 billion just to meet the designated federally eligible activities. This demand is only growing with the impacts associated with climate change and antiquated systems. The commitment to authorize \$4 billion annually to the Clean Water SRF Program represents a meaningful down payment that would provide California with approximately \$280 million annually under the current allocation formula. As we have discussed in the past, this formula has not been updated since 1987. As you consider this legislation, we would request that consideration be given to developing an approach to address the allocation of assistance in a more equitable manner given the dramatic population increases California has experienced over the past forty years.

CASA is also supportive of the bill's other provisions that would assist communities to remedy impacts from sewer overflows, stormwater flows, and watershed improvement projects. Each of these provisions will lead to improved public health and environmental benefits and advance our shared interest in reversing the decline in our clean water infrastructure. As you and your colleagues work toward enactment of water infrastructure legislation this Congress, CASA looks forward to supporting this effort.

Sincerely,



Jessica Gauger  
Director of Legislative Advocacy