



May 11, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Subject: CASA Support for Substitute Amendment H.R. 1915 Discussion Draft

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Chairwoman Napolitano:

On behalf of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), I write to express our support for the Substitute Amendment to H.R. 1915 Discussion Draft. CASA represents more than 125 local public agencies engaged in the collection, treatment and recycling of wastewater and biosolids to protect public health and the environment. Our mission is to provide trusted information and advocacy on behalf of California clean water agencies, and to be a leader in sustainability and utilization of renewable resources. Over the years, CASA has supported the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure's commitment to ensure that a robust federal partnership with local clean water agencies is maintained, and most recently advocated support for H.R. 1915. CASA is pleased to continue to express our support for H.R. 1915 with this revised discussion draft and appreciate the opportunity to provide the committee the following comments on the draft.

CASA agencies have led the way in designing and implementing advanced water treatment projects that are increasingly becoming the mechanism to mitigate the impacts from climate change. As a result, our sector is consistently looking into the future and determining how to enhance current infrastructure systems to address new and concerning climate realities, including extended drought, storm surges from extreme wet weather events, and sea level rise. We are encouraged by the discussion draft's expanded Section. 4. Watershed, Wet Weather, and Resiliency Projects. This section provides critical federal support to clean water utilities that will allow us to develop and maintain resilient public health and environmental protection services. The targeted authorization of \$200 million for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 provides a dedicated funding stream that will help utilities balance short-term capital demands associated with daily operation and maintenance as well as long-term capital costs to incorporate resiliency into our systems.

CASA continues to support the federal commitment to renew the Clean Water Act SRF program at a record level of \$40 billion. This support is vital to help close the funding gap recently illustrated by the American Society of Civil Engineers' *Infrastructure Report Card*. We also endorse funding to assist clean water agencies address the control of PFAS and other "forever" chemicals with financial assistance for pretreatment programs. As you know, the introduction of these types of constituents

May 11, 2021
The Honorable Peter DeFazio
The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Page 2 of 2

occur outside of our agencies' control, and financial assistance to address such pollutants is vital to ensuring we protect the progress we have achieved in improving our water quality.

As you proceed to consider this legislation, please let CASA know if we can provide any assistance or information. Thank you again for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam D. Link". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" being the most prominent.

Adam D. Link
Executive Director