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August 5, 2021

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Feinstein and Padilla:

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), I write to request that you work with your colleagues to ensure that any final infrastructure agreement provides at least \$80 billion dollars to support direct grants and loan assistance to clean water agencies like OC San. As you know, OC San provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County, CA. OC San’s primary mission is to protect public health and the environment through its services. This assistance would ensure that we can meet the pressing challenges of aged infrastructure, climate change and help to meet the needs of underserved communities.

Our clean water infrastructure is not only vital to protect the public health and the environment, it serves to provide highly treated wastewater for the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) a joint project with OC San and the Orange County Water District. The GWRS, is an internationally recognized water recycling facility that produces 100 million gallons of high-quality drinking water per day, reducing the impacts of the persistent drought. This project would not have been possible without federal grants assistance.

Increased and direct investment for clean water in the form of grants or through additional subsidization provisions, such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), are imperative for communities such as ours. The additional funding is needed to maintain, upgrade and build critical wastewater infrastructure throughout the region without placing increased costs on our ratepayers and your constituents.

A project that could benefit from funds such as these would be the OC San Headworks Rehabilitation project. This project will ensure long-term sustainability of wastewater infrastructure that is critical to ensuring public health and the protection of the environment within the OC San service areas which includes disadvantaged communities. The project will modernize the removal of inorganics, sanitary products and other large materials before wastewater can be treated for water reuse delivering a resilient water supply for the more than 2 million citizens of Orange County. The Headworks Rehabilitation will also increase efficiency, reduce possible environmental odors and enhance reliability enabling OC San to continue with efficient wastewater treatment addressing fence-line communities. The overall construction costs are budgeted at \$340 million and is expected to be complete in 2027.

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- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Yorba Linda Water District



Senators Feinstein and Padilla

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Again, as you and your colleagues work to finalize an infrastructure bill to modernize our nation's overall infrastructure, we urge you to ensure at least \$80 billion dollars to support grants and loans to construct this vital public health clean water infrastructure. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, OC San Administration Manager at (714) 593-7581 or via email at JCabral@ocsan.gov should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John B. Withers".

John B. Withers
Board Chairman