



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Dan Charlton

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
United States House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
United States House of Representatives
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
United States House of Representatives
1610 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R.2979 WIFIA Loan Maturity Extension

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and Chairwoman Napolitano:

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) writes to support Congressman Garamendi's legislation, H.R.2979, which would amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 in order to extend the final maturity date of certain loans. CVWD respectfully requests that the Committee holds a committee hearing for this resourceful legislation.

The legislation would allow for a maturity date extension for projects that will have a "useful life" of 35 years or more. The extension of the maturity loan lifespan to 55 years instead 35 years would decrease the capital cost of a project. For projects with a "useful life" of less than 55 years, the maturity date would be until the project's lifespan. The resulting savings would effectively allow WIFIA loan borrowers to redirect funds toward new infrastructure planning and development, further benefitting the community at large. CVWD plans to apply for additional WIFIA loans in the future, and this legislation would provide much needed financial flexibility. The legislation provides a logical financial tool that will encourage innovation and infrastructure development.

In 1918, Coachella Valley Water District was created to protect and conserve water primarily for agricultural irrigation. Today, CVWD's service area covers approximately 1,000 square miles from the San Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, mostly within Riverside County and includes portions of Imperial and San Diego counties. CVWD is a multifaceted agency that provides diverse water services, including: irrigation and drainage, drinking water service, groundwater the type of the project the legislation aims to assist.

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CVWD recently finalized a WIFIA loan of \$59.1 million for two projects: the Stormwater Channel Improvement Project and North Indio Flood Control Project. Both of these projects will provide long-term benefits to the community and surrounding areas by reducing flood risk and improving stormwater management. The projects have a usefulness lifespan of more than 35 years, thereby fitting the type of project the legislation aims to assist.

CVWD is thankful for the Committee's ongoing support of water infrastructure. This legislation will aid water infrastructure projects in long-term financial planning. Communities across the country are in need of resilient, innovative water infrastructure more than ever. CVWD will continue to support this legislation, and hopes to see it considered by the Committee.

Sincerely,



J. M. Barrett
General Manager