



# 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

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
Chairwoman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Please Support S. 3590, the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act***

Dear Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), I am writing to convey our strong support for S. 3590, the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act*, and humbly ask the Senate EPW Committee to favorably report this important legislation.

As you may know, the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act* would extend authorization for the EPA's Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience Program, the Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program, and the Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program through Fiscal Year 2031.

These programs provide essential federal support that helps water utilities address environmental hazards and cyber threats. For larger systems such as CVWD, which also manage wastewater, the ability to pursue projects that strengthen critical infrastructure and our resilience to extreme weather is essential. These investments help mitigate disasters, support water conservation infrastructure such as our Water Reclamation Plants, and maintain reliable service for generations to come. CVWD, and the nation as a whole, stands to benefit significantly from the reauthorization and sustained funding of the Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience Program and the Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program.

Established in 1918, CVWD was formed with the core mission of safeguarding and preserving water resources, primarily for agricultural irrigation purposes. Over the years, CVWD has evolved into a multifaceted agency serving a vast area of approximately 1,000 square miles, stretching from the San Gorgonio Pass to the Salton Sea, predominantly within Riverside County but also including portions of Imperial and San Diego counties. Today, CVWD offers a wide array of water-related services, including delivering irrigation and drinking water, groundwater replenishment, storm water protection, wastewater recycling, and water conservation.

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Additionally, many communities in the East Coachella Valley, including areas outside CVWD's current service boundaries, are designated as disadvantaged and continue to face serious gaps in access to safe drinking water and reliable sanitary sewer services. Groundwater in these neighborhoods frequently contains elevated levels of contaminants such as arsenic and chromium-6, and aging septic systems often fail, releasing untreated wastewater into residential areas and local aquifers. Programs like the Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program are vital to addressing these challenges, providing the resources necessary to connect these communities to the public drinking water system and to build dependable, modern sewer infrastructure.

CVWD is grateful for your attention to this critical matter, and we appreciate your consideration of this bipartisan legislation. Your Committee's favorable consideration of the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act* would help ensure that our nation's water systems continue to provide reliable, affordable, and essential public services that protect the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett", written over a light blue horizontal line.

J. M. Barrett  
General Manager