



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 Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
2131 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Troy A. Carter, Sr.
U.S. House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew
U.S. House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Mast
U.S. House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Thank You for Introducing H.R. 5566, the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act*

Dear Representatives Carbajal, Valadao, Carter, Van Drew, and Mast:

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), I am writing to convey our strong support for H.R. 5566, the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act*, and to thank you for introducing this vital legislation.

As you 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.

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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.

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 leadership in sponsoring this bipartisan legislation. By introducing the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act*, you are helping to ensure that our nation's water systems can continue providing reliable, affordable, and essential public services to maintain the health and safety of our communities. CVWD is eager to see the *Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act* enacted and stands ready to support your efforts as the bill moves through Congress toward successful passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett", written over a white rectangular background.

J. M. Barrett
General Manager