



# 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

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla United States Senate 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	The Honorable John Curtis United States Senate SR-B11 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
The Honorable John Hickenlooper United States Senate 316 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	The Honorable Judy Chu U.S. House of Representatives 2423 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
The Honorable Jared Huffman U.S. House of Representatives 2330 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	The Honorable Blake Moore U.S. House of Representatives 1131 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 1871 / S. 857 the *Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act***

Dear Senator Padilla, Senator Curtis, Senator Hickenlooper, Representative Chu, Representative Huffman, and Representative Moore:

On behalf of Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), I write in support of H.R. 1871 / S. 857, the *Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act*, and thank you for introducing this important legislation. This bill would help to incentivize homeowners to invest in efforts to reduce their water use by making water conservation rebates non-taxable. The *Water Conservation Tax Parity Act* would deliver much appreciated relief to families and businesses in the Coachella Valley.

As arid regions of the country—including the Coachella Valley—continue to confront water scarcity, water conservation is among the most important tools we have to uphold our promise of delivering the safe drinking and irrigation water, which is the backbone of our local economy. CVWD offers several rebate programs to reduce water demand, but these rebates are taxed as income by the IRS, creating additional tax liability for ratepayers and administrative costs for CVWD.

Founded in 1918, CVWD’s mission is to protect and preserve water resources, initially for agricultural irrigation, having now expanded to municipal water service as well. Serving about 1,000 square miles across Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego counties, CVWD provides water delivery, groundwater replenishment, wastewater treatment, and promotes conservation.

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In its 2020 Water Management Plan, CVWD committed to conservation and offers various rebate programs to help customers save water. The *Water Conservation Tax Parity Act* would ease this burden by excluding water conservation rebates from taxable income, aligning them with energy conservation rebates, and expanding participation in the programs among low-income residents. CVWD preserves thousands of acre feet of water annually through initiatives such as offering rebates for water-efficient indoor appliances and outdoor landscape devices, leak detection, the Residential Turf Conversion Rebate, HOA and Commercial Rotary Nozzle Rebate Program, and Commercial Water Efficient Toilet Rebate Program.

CVWD strongly supports the *Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act* and looks forward to it becoming law. Thank you for your bipartisan leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.M. Barrett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

J.M. Barrett  
General Manager