



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

September 18, 2025

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
2106 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for H.R. 2766, the *Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act*

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia:

As a special district dedicated to delivering dependable water services, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) firmly endorses H.R. 2766, the *Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act*. This bipartisan measure, introduced by Representative Pat Fallon (TX-04) and pending for consideration by the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, would ensure uniform opportunities for federal funding programs across all public local utilities and service providers.

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 Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, predominantly within Riverside County but also including portions of Imperial and San Diego counties. Today, CVWD offers a broad range of water-related services, including delivering irrigation and drinking water, groundwater replenishment, stormwater protection, wastewater treatment and recycling, and the promotion of water conservation.

Special districts, like CVWD, are specialized local governments created by state law to deliver unique essential services to their designated communities. Currently, special districts are often ineligible for federal programs due to the lack of a uniform definition for them in federal law. The legislation seeks to cure this and in doing so would create a definition for all federal agencies to use, clearing the way for special districts to have access to funding based on a variety of criteria, including population-based funding opportunities.

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CVWD respectfully seeks your Committee's favorable action of the *Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act* and appreciates your consideration of this vital legislation that will be of the benefit to communities across the country.

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