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February 13, 2007

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**SUBJECT: Rancho California Water District Recycled Water Expansion Feasibility Program**

Dear Senator Feinstein,

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which helps support the local economy and environmental conservation throughout Southwest Riverside County, we are writing to respectfully request your support for authorizations and appropriations for the Rancho California Water District (RCWD) regional Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) project. The project will provide vast regional and federal benefits.

When implemented, RCWD's regional IRP project will provide cost-effective and sustainable water supplies. It will free-up enough treated water supply to meet the demands of up to 70,000 households. The project will create the ability beneficially to reuse 16,000 acre feet (AF) of recycled water annually, which will relieve demands on the statewide systems and will increase the sustainability of Southern Riverside County's avocado, citrus and wine industries. These agricultural industries add exponentially to the regional economy. They also provide some environmental benefits as they preserve open space at considerably less detriment to endangered and threatened species than the alternative land use: residential development.

By converting the majority of the agricultural delivery system from a treated water potable system to a recycled and raw water non-potable system, the project also will enable RCWD to utilize 10,000 AF/year of unused regional storage. The project has the potential to relieve substantial water demand from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) regional treated water system thereby efficiently relieving demands on the Colorado River and the California Bay Delta (State Water Project).

We appreciate the support you have given RCWD to date, and it is our hope you will be successful in holding hearings and passing authorization legislation for the project. We also hope you will request appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation's portion of the feasibility study, since RCWD already has financed its own feasibility study with the support of Eastern Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District. We believe it is important to note that RCWD has made the progress it has with no federal funding of any significance.

Please accept our thanks for your support. We look forward to hearing from you on the status of legislation relating to the RCWD project, which is vital to our economy and the continued economic strength of the region. If you have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cam Tredennick  
Project Director