



The Canyon City – Gateway to the American Dream

March 31, 2022

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I am writing to support the FY23 appropriations request recently submitted by the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) to continue its long-standing effort to clean up contaminated groundwater in and around the San Gabriel Valley, including cities of Alhambra, Irwindale, La Puente, Rosemead, Azusa, Baldwin Park, City of Industry, El Monte, South El Monte, West Covina, San Gabriel, Temple City, Monrovia, and other areas of the San Gabriel Valley

In 1979, following several decades of defense contractor work, groundwater contamination was detected in the San Gabriel Valley. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency subsequently designated major portions of the region's groundwater as Superfund sites and identified Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). Those PRPs continue to pay a large share of treatment and remediation, but there are many sites where no responsible party can be found or are no longer viable.

As part of the effort to clean up this groundwater contamination and prevent it from spreading into the adjacent Central Basin, the WQA was created by the State of California. In 2001, Congress established the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund (Fund) (P.L. 106-554). This Fund was established to reimburse the WQA and the Central Basin Municipal Water District for design, construction and ongoing treatment and remediation costs required to facilitate groundwater cleanup efforts in the San Gabriel Valley and Southeast Los Angeles County. Congress has not made any appropriations into the Fund since FY10.

The FY23 funds requested by the WQA will be used to reimburse costs associated with treatment and remediation of the groundwater treatment facilities pursuant to the Fund and to address clean-up of orphan sites and Non "Record of Decision" projects where there is no responsible party identified or where the responsible party does not have the resources to do the work. This funding will be matched with state and local funding to maximize the site clean-up efforts to restore this critical groundwater basin in addition to the required Federal matching requirement identified in the Fund.



To date:

- The Fund has received \$91,509,000 of the \$135,000,000 authorized in the 2001 law.
- There are currently 33 active groundwater cleanup projects in the Basin that use the latest best available technologies to remove contaminants, including ion exchange, carbon adsorption, advanced oxidation via ultra-violet light, air stripping and reverse osmosis, to pump, treat and serve the water to the public.
- Over 100 tons of contaminants have been removed by WQA-sponsored projects and treated nearly 1,734,000 acre-feet of groundwater.

Furthermore, to date the State of California has provided \$30,000,000 through various programs to supplement the federal effort. We anticipate being able to obtain an additional \$10 million in state funding to match this request.

As you know, the San Gabriel Basin provides 90% of the drinking water supply for over 1.4 million residents. Some of the contaminants removed include perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, perchlorate, n-nitrosodimethylamine, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, Chromium VI, 1,4 dioxane, and Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Without this funding, water rates — primarily in disadvantaged communities — are likely to increase substantially, and the San Gabriel Valley will have to increase its reliance on water imported from Northern California.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if you have any questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

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