

July 22, 2019

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

Re: S. 1932, Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing today on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to express our support for the Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act of 2019 (S. 1932).

S. 1932 is an appropriate and necessary addition to the successful drought legislation that you sponsored and enacted in 2016 that was included in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. The WIIN Act and S. 1932, if enacted, are a potential source of federal funding for a critical, county-owned water storage project that would greatly benefit our local agricultural community and surrounding environment.

The proposed Interlake Tunnel will connect Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs to transfer wet year water from Nacimiento Reservoir to San Antonio Reservoir to more fully utilize existing storage capacity in San Antonio Reservoir. Over the years, tens of thousands of acre feet of water were released from the Nacimiento Reservoir ultimately flowing into the ocean instead of being stored and utilized for future conservation and environmental releases and other beneficial uses. The project will provide an innovative solution to the problem utilizing existing storage infrastructure by designing and constructing a 12,000 foot tunnel between the Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs to transfer wet year water and thereby increase the opportunity to store up to 67,000 acre-feet of additional water per year when available. The water from these two reservoirs would then be used in controlled releases downstream increasing the total available supply and quality of water benefiting the surrounding communities and ecosystems through groundwater recharge, sea water intrusion abatement, and the promotion of fish habitats.

We are pleased to offer our support for the Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act, and we thank you for your leadership on important water issues facing Monterey County and other communities in California and throughout the West.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senator Kamala Harris
Congressman Jimmy Panetta