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August 20, 2020

Honorable Brenda Burman
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: FY2021 WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects

Dear Commissioner Burman:

I write in regard to the Long Beach Water Department's (LBWD) proposal for an FY21 WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects grant to support the construction of two new production wells.

The LBWD is tasked with managing all water supply within the City of Long Beach and its approximately 500,000 residents. Currently, the LBWD receives its potable water supply from two sources: imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and groundwater through its wells located in the Central Groundwater Basin. This proposed project would replace three aging, inefficient wells with two new production wells for the Central Groundwater Basin, which underlies the northeast portion of the City of Long Beach. This critical project will provide drought resiliency and reduce the need for emergency response actions.

A project of this magnitude will provide many significant benefits within the City of Long Beach and afar. By decreasing the LBWD's reliance on expensive water imported from the MWD, and instead using local and reliable resources, the residents of Long Beach will be able to lower their own water expenses. This will have a tremendous impact on my constituents in North Long Beach and other disadvantaged community members throughout the LBWD's service area. Additionally, this project will assist the MWD by decreasing its dependence on the Bureau of Reclamation by reducing the need to import water from the Colorado River Aqueduct. By providing locally supplied resources, this project will lower the LBWD's carbon footprint and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, which supports the goals of the City of Long Beach's Climate Resiliency Assessment Report.

As the Representative of California's 44th Congressional District, I respectfully request your thorough consideration of LBWD's proposal for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Project grant.

Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress