

June 26, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Costa Amendment 261 to H.R. 2, the *Moving Forward Act*

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Grijalva, and Ranking Member Bishop,

Our organizations are writing to express our support for and encourage your endorsement of the inclusion of Representative Costa's amendment #261 to H.R. 2, the *Moving Forward Act*.

California, indeed, much of the western United States, is on the brink of a water crisis given the state of aging or inadequate infrastructure, particularly in light of the hydrologic impacts of a changing climate. While H.R. 2 includes funding for numerous programs to address these challenges, there is still a critical gap. Representative Costa's amendment 261 improves the underlying legislation by increasing funding for the restoration of damaged infrastructure that supplies water to regions of import to our nation's economy, providing additional investment in needed ecosystem improvements to respond to the impacts of a changing climate, and by providing additional safe drinking water grant funding for disadvantaged communities facing water shortages.

A detailed breakdown of the funding authorized in the amendment is as follows:

- \$275 million for a combination of habitat and ecosystem restoration, refuge water development, acquisition and conveyance, and environmental monitoring.
- \$25 million for Sustainable Groundwater Management practices.
- \$100 million authorization for clean drinking water programs for disadvantaged communities.
- \$400 million authorization for repairs on the Delta Mendota Canal and California Aqueduct which deliver water to communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California, including 30% of Southern California's municipal water supply.

This amendment is a welcome step towards restoring critically-important water supplies to 27 million Californians, particularly to those communities most in need, 3 million acres of the nation's most

productive farmland, and hundreds of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat. We write to express the need for this amendment and urge you to support its passage.



Westlands Water District



Pacheco Water District
Mercy Springs Water District