

April 20, 2020

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515**

**The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510**

**The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515**

**The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510**

RE: ACWA Request for COVID-19 Federal Relief Funding

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) respectfully requests that subsequent COVID-19 relief bills address the needs of local government agencies, especially for their water and wastewater systems. ACWA's 455 public water agency members supply over 90 percent of the water delivered in California for residential, agricultural, and business uses.

As the nation continues to struggle with the devastating effects of the coronavirus, public water agencies in California are working tirelessly to ensure their customers continue to have safe and reliable water services and to protect the health and safety of their workforce. However, local governments, in particular special districts and cities, need assistance in the face of increased expenses and reduced revenue due to the financial burdens on ratepayers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of ACWA's members, we request federal relief bills include:

- **Federal assistance for special districts and cities** to cover costs associated with suspensions of water service disconnections and reconnections of delinquent accounts, that water districts have implemented in response to the pandemic;
- **Direct ratepayer assistance** to assist ratepayers struggling financially;
- **Establish a \$100 billion relief fund specifically for local governments, in particular special districts and cities**, to utilize for continuation of essential services, such as water and wastewater operations across the country;
- **Include local government eligibility for emergency paid leave payroll tax credit.** While all public agencies are required to provide paid COVID-19 sick and family leave, special districts and local government agencies are currently excluded from the credit, putting them at a disadvantage.

ACWA's members are among the nation's essential workforce and ask Congress to provide federal assistance to keep California's water sector whole.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your leadership during the coronavirus pandemic. If you have any questions, please contact me at dlreyns@sso.org or 202-255-9648.

Sincerely,



David Reynolds
Director of Federal Relations, ACWA

CC:

US Senator Dianne Feinstein
US Senator Kamala Harris
US Senate Committee on Finance
US Senate Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives Committee on Ways & Means
US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations