



County Executive

Ann Edwards

**Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer**

Elisia De Bord

County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors

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September 13, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Water Resources Development Act of 2024 Requests

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of Sacramento County, I write to request your support for two specific new authorizations to be included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024.

First, I request your support for a new study for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and related purposes in the Cosumnes River watershed. The County requests support for a multi-benefit study to identify flood risk reduction measures along the Lower Cosumnes River (including flood risk reductions that protect key elements of public and private water infrastructure) and identify opportunities for additional habitat and water supply reliability benefits in the watershed. In early January 2023, the second highest flow in history was recorded on the Cosumnes River, with flows of more than 65,000 cubic feet per second – just below the 1997 record. One of the main downstream levees breached, which led to flooding that caused three deaths, diminished habitat values, and damaged Dillard Road, Highway 99 and critical water infrastructure. Assistance from the Corps of Engineers is urgently needed to help evaluate opportunities in the Cosumnes River watershed for flood risk reduction, habitat enhancements and water reliability improvements. The project has strong local and regional support.

Second, I request your support for a modification to section 219 of WRDA of 1992, as amended, to allow the Federal share of project costs authorized under section 219 to be provided in the form of grants and reimbursements. The Corps' environmental infrastructure program has grown dramatically since 1992, with different authorizations provided for many of these projects and programs. The proposed legislation is intended to promote consistency and program equities by bringing the general environmental infrastructure authorities authorized under Section 219 of WRDA of 1992, as amended, into alignment with other separately authorized regional, state, and multi-state environmental infrastructure authorities that allow the federal share of total project costs to be provided in the form of grants or reimbursements. The requested provision borrows on project implementation concepts found in the authorization for the South Central Pennsylvania environmental infrastructure project (Section 313 of WRDA of 1992, as amended), the State of California

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environmental infrastructure authority (section 5039 of WRDA of 2007) and other regional, state, and multi-state environmental infrastructure authorities. Sacramento County has several section 219 authorities that would benefit from this modification, which will allow the Corps to provide assistance for section 219 authorized projects in the most efficient manner possible, saving both the Corps and non-Federal sponsors both time and money.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and for your continued leadership in Congress on Sacramento County's important water resource-related issues. Please contact me at deborde@saccounty.gov or (916) 874-4627 for additional information.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Sacramento County Federal Delegation
Chair and Members, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Holland and Knight
The Ferguson Group

Water Resources Development Act Proposed Language

At the appropriate place in the bill, add the following:

(___) CONSUMNES RIVER, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and related purposes, Consumnes River, California.

At the appropriate place in the bill, add the following:

Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended, is further amended to redesignate subparagraph (d) as subparagraph (e) and insert a new subparagraph (d) as follows:

(d) Grants and Reimbursements – For projects, or separable elements of projects, for which assistance is provided under this section, the Federal share may be in the form of grants or reimbursements of project costs.