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November 7, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Resolution of Cadiz Water Project BLM Determination

Dear Congressman Calvert,

On behalf of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, I wish to express our support for the resolution of the Cadiz Water Project – U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) determination. The Partnership is a regional business organization in eastern Los Angeles County dedicated to expanding economic growth in the San Gabriel Valley.

A reliable water supply is vital for a healthy economy. The Partnership supports the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project, which upon completion could provide up to 15,000 acre-feet of water annually to the San Gabriel Valley as part of 50,000 acre-feet the project would deliver to Southern California.

The Partnership appreciates your leadership in addressing the BLM's October 2015 preliminary guidance that denied the Cadiz project's proposed use of an existing railroad right-of-way for its water conveyance. The BLM's determination, by ignoring established federal policy and precedents, has delayed the completion of a much-needed new water supply project, and creates an adverse precedent for all third party railroad right-of-way uses throughout the West.

I appreciate your leadership in the House Appropriations Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Subcommittee, which resulted in the inclusion of language in the FY2017 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill that would favorably resolve this matter. I would urge you to continue your efforts to reverse the BLM determination. A reversal would make available a new water source sufficient to meet the needs of 400,000 Southern Californians and continue the sensible federal policies that encourage the co-location of water, utility, telecommunications and other infrastructure projects in railroad right-of-way.

If I or our staff can be of assistance on this issue, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Jeff Allred
President & CEO

CC: Members of the San Gabriel Valley House delegation