



LAS VIRGENES - TRIUNFO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
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(818) 251-2200



May 11, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for STREAM Act, Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA), I write to demonstrate the JPA’s support for your legislation, Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act (STREAM Act). The legislation will increase federal funding opportunities for water and wastewater infrastructure projects through increased authorizations across various highly utilized programs. The legislation would also help address drought conditions and water supply in the West, which is increasingly concerning to the JPA.

For context, in 1964, Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority was established by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Water and Sanitation District in order to collaboratively collect and treat wastewater for the two expansive service areas in southern California. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District serves approximately 74,000 people within its service area. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District provides drinking water, recycled water, wastewater services, and biosolids composting. Triunfo Water and Sanitation District serves approximately 30,000 people in east Ventura County. Triunfo Water and Sanitation District provides sewage collection services and wastewater treatment, supplies potable water, and treats and sells recycled water.

As you are aware, California has experienced water supply shortages for years, and this past January, February and March were the driest in its history. In order to mitigate critical water supply shortages in our service areas, the JPA created the Pure Water Project, which includes building a new advanced treatment facility that will treat recycled water to drinking water standards, store it at the Las Virgenes Reservoir, and then treat the water again to ultimately be served to the community. The JPA will seek out funding opportunities authorized in the legislation, including: \$750 million for storage and conveyance projects, \$300 million for water recycling, and increased authorizations for environmental restoration, desalination, and disadvantaged communities. The JPA hopes Congress will support those efforts and appropriate funds accordingly. However, the JPA will need additional resources to address drought conditions that are now severely impacting our service area.

Jay Lewitt
Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Board of Directors

Leon Shapiro
Vice-Chair, Las Virgenes-Triunfo
Joint Powers Authority
Chair, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District
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The STREAM Act also timely addresses the policy pitfalls related to drought relief. The legislation will change the current policy and permit the Department of Interior to implement emergency drought relief projects that are permanent facilities rather than temporary ones. Water supply levels are important to the JPA as the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is currently 100 percent reliant on imported water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The District is also subject to the State Water Project's allocated supplies, which is now only 5 percent after two previous dry years. The federal government needs to implement long-term drought relief policies and the necessary infrastructure in order to help aid water servicers that are struggling to meet short-term and long-term water supply needs.

The JPA is thankful for your leadership and dedication on water supply, conservation, and infrastructure. The JPA will support this legislation once its introduced and urge members of its delegation to join as sponsors.

Sincerely,



Joe McDermott, P.E.
Director of Engineering and External Affairs

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Joint Powers Authority
President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
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