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May 22, 2026

Mr. Ronald O. Nuckles
Field Office Manager
Needles Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
1303 S. Highway 95
Needles CA 92363

RE: Support for the Proposed Change of Right-of-Way of an Existing Fossil Fuel Pipeline for Water Conveyance Purposes – *Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company Federal Land Policy and Management Right-of-Way and Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-CA-D090-2025-0018-EA*

Dear Mr. Nuckles:

On behalf of the undersigned, we write in strong support of the Bureau of Land Management's approval of the requested right-of-way for the Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company's Northern Pipeline Conversion Project. The proposal would authorize the conversion of an existing, idle 30-inch steel pipeline crossing federal lands from fossil fuel transport to water conveyance.

Repurposing this established corridor for water infrastructure is a practical and responsible action that advances the multiple-use framework governing public lands.

California's water challenges are increasingly defined by infrastructure constraints and supply uncertainty. Southern California relies heavily on imported water from the State Water Project, the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and the Colorado River—systems facing extreme hydrologic volatility, increasing regulatory restrictions, and aging infrastructure. When systems cannot efficiently move, store, or exchange water, communities experience the consequences: higher rates, reduced reliability, constrained housing production, and limited economic opportunity. Despite our wealth, in some areas of California, particularly in disadvantaged communities, residents still lack reliable access to clean water. Building and modernizing conveyance systems is essential to improving access and supporting the broader benefits that reliable water supply brings to all Californians, but especially to our disadvantaged communities.

Recognizing these challenges, the California Legislature adopted SB 72 in 2025, directing the state to identify 9 million acre-feet of additional supply, conservation, or storage by 2040. Meeting this goal will require an all-of-the-above approach that includes a variety of solutions such as desalination, recycling, stormwater capture, aquifer and surface storage, conservation, and water treatment. Equally important will be the infrastructure needed to move these necessary supplies so they can be used where and when they are needed.

The Northern Pipeline was constructed in 1985 as part of the All-American Pipeline system, originally built to transport oil from Texas to the California coast. Converting this existing asset to water conveyance would enable the movement of up to 25,000 acre-feet of water annually, and its bi-directional capability will strengthen interconnections among major water systems and expand opportunities for exchange, storage, and drought management across the Southwest. Using an existing pipeline reduces surface disturbance, environmental impacts, permitting complexity, and overall costs compared with constructing a new pipeline and creating a new corridor, all of which helps with water affordability, rate stability, broader accessibility, and environmental sustainability and protection.

Our organizations are united in their support for well-planned, environmentally sound water infrastructure projects that enhance water supply reliability, and we support the conversion of this pipeline to water conveyance. We respectfully urge BLM to complete its review and approve the requested right-of-way expeditiously so this critical water infrastructure can be brought online to efficiently move water supplies and support resilient, prosperous communities.

Sincerely,



Richard Lambros, Executive Director
Secure Water Alliance



Charles Wilson, Executive Director
Southern California Water Coalition



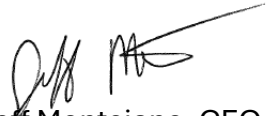
Jon P. Preciado, Business Manager
Southern California District Council of
Laborers



Mitchell Vieyra, Executive Vice President
Los Angeles County Business Federation



Jon Switalski, Executive Director
Rebuild SoCal Partnership



Jeff Montejano, CEO
Building Industry Association of Southern
California



Paul C. Granillo, President & CEO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership



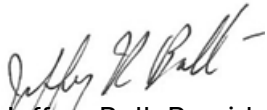
Ray Baca, Director of Agency Relations
UCON, United Contractors



Ronald Sikorski, Business Manager and
Executive Vice President
IUOE Local 12



Mike Lewis, Senior Vice President
Construction Industry Coalition on Water
Quality



Jeffrey K. Ball, President & CEO
Orange County Business Council



Luis Portillo, President & CEO
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership



Kevin G. Harbour, Sr., CEO & President
BizFed Institute