



City of Pico Rivera

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

6615 Passons Boulevard · Pico Rivera, California 90660 · (562) 801-4371
www.pico-rivera.org

GUSTAVO V. CAMACHO
Mayor

April 29, 2020

Sen. John Barrasso, Chairman
The United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Pico Rivera, California is a community of 64,000 residents, located 11 miles east of Los Angeles. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments to inform the information-gathering process regarding the draft America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 and the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020. We are especially grateful for the Committee on Environment and Public Works' (EPW) efforts to bring attention to the water infrastructure needs of the nation. As you work to finalize legislation, please consider these vitally important issues:

Help provide the tools needed to mitigate the impact of the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modification Project.

Our city is currently in the unique position of having to balance how to accommodate the Whittier Narrows Dam safety project, a multi-year flood control effort being undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to help prevent dam malfunction and potentially catastrophic disruption to our region, while meeting the needs of residents and businesses that make up our community. Pico Rivera will be permanently disrupted by the project. The Corps will have to demolish much of our parks and recreation facilities for construction activities and other modifications at a cost of \$100 million. We have submitted a Sec. 7001 proposal and continue to work closely with the Army Corps and our Congressional Delegation. Your help in providing the statutory tools to ensure that mitigation funds are available to communities like ours, facing disruption as a result of Army Corps projects, is imperative to our economic vitality.

Provide adequate resources to enable communities to remediate PFAS.

In order to meet new water quality standards, we must build a water treatment system to remove PFOA and PFOS from the groundwater and improve, repair and replace existing water facilities. The estimated cost to build treatment facilities at three plants and two well locations is approximately \$10 million with on-going maintenance costs at roughly \$1 million per year.



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Considering the fact that there are numerous water purveyors throughout the nation facing this new health issue, we encourage you to increase the allocation for grants to assist in the remediation of emerging contaminants, with focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, more than one-third of the Nation's population, roughly 115 million people, rely on groundwater for drinking water.

As the Senate EPW Committee works to finalize these bills and other water infrastructure legislation, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff and answer any questions. Thank you again for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gustavo V. Camacho", written over a horizontal line.

Gustavo V. Camacho
Mayor
City of Pico Rivera