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March 7, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20515

RE: Water Infrastructure

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the League of California Cities, I would like to express the importance of significant investment in water infrastructure to California Cities. A clean and reliable water supply is vital for sustaining strong and growing cities. As you set your infrastructure investment priorities over the next two years, we urge you to prioritize investment in water infrastructure, including those that promote sustainability practices.

California economic prosperity was built on world-class infrastructure. To assure a prosperous future, those investments need to be drastically updated and expanded. Demographers project that California's population will continue to grow by 300,000 to 400,000 annually. These new residents will need infrastructure to support them, including:

- **An Increased and Reliable Water Supply.** Clean drinkable water is the lifeblood of California's residents, thriving agriculture, and other industry. California's water infrastructure needs are ranked highest among all other states. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that California needs \$44.5 billion to fund improved drinking water transmission, water treatment, and water storage.
- **Better Wastewater Management.** Significant investments are needed to address renewal and replacement, maintenance, security and reliability funding for California's wastewater infrastructure. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2013 California Infrastructure Report Card estimates that \$4.5 billion will need to be spent annually for the next 10 years to modestly improve wastewater infrastructure.
- **Updated Flood Control.** Levees and other flood control measures protect thousands of homes, businesses and vital community infrastructure. The ASCE 2013 California Infrastructure Report Card found that the backbone of flood control and drainage systems serving California cities, including channels, levees, retarding basins, dams and pump stations, varies widely in condition and capacity to prevent flooding from major storms.

It's estimated that flood control funding shortfalls for regional flood control facilities are in excess of \$2.8 billion annually over the next 10 years.

- **Expanded Stormwater.** As regional water quality boards adopt more stringent requirements, local agencies are being called on to adopt expansive and expensive stormwater management programs, which will require funding that simply does not yet exist. The magnitude of this need is significant and funding options are extremely limited without changes in state law.

We thank you for your steadfast support of cities and towns, and encourage you to make investing in additional water infrastructure a priority. We look forward to partnering with your Administration to rebuild out water infrastructure, put people back to work, and lay the foundation for a stronger America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris McKenzie".

Christopher McKenzie
Executive Director