



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES

October 26, 2021

Director Karla Nemeth
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Director Nemeth,

I write in support of the Kettleman City Community Services District's (KCCSD) petition to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for an additional emergency water supply allocation from the California State Water Project (SWP) for 2022.

For decades, the groundwater provided to Kettleman City residences required treatment for benzene and exceeded the arsenic drinking water limits. In addition to this contamination, both groundwater wells operated by KCCSD have failed beyond repair. Accordingly, groundwater is not a dependable option, and Kettleman City is now entirely reliant on surface water from the SWP.

KCCSD services a commercial area at the intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 41, a major rest area for intrastate travelers offering gas stations, restaurants, lodging, and gift shops. As a result, commercial use accounts for 40 percent of the city's water consumption. Although Kettleman City residents have abided by strict water conservation efforts, travelers passing through expend a significant portion of the city's water.

KCCSD currently expects to receive 5-10 percent of their portion of Kings County's 2022 contract for water supplies from the SWP. Including an Emergency Health and Safety water supply of about 8 acre-feet per month, this totals 96 acre-feet from DWR. Based on this projection and the city's 2021 usage, KCCSD will fall short of their community's residential and commercial water needs by 214 acre-feet.

The Kettleman City community desperately needs DWR's support. I respectfully ask for your full and fair consideration of KCCSD's petition for an emergency allocation of 310 acre-feet of water for 2022.

Sincerely,

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress