City of Santa Rosa

August 31, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act (STREAM Act) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein:

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our support for the Support To Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture and Municipalities Act (STREAM Act), which would help increase water supply and modernize water infrastructure in California and throughout the West.

The STREAM Act comes at a critical juncture for Californians as re-occurring drought conditions are worsening due to climate change. The City of Santa Rosa, located 50 miles north of San Francisco, California, has experienced three multi-year droughts over the past 20 years, with the most recent drought (2020-2022) recorded as the driest period in history. Santa Rosa has a long-standing commitment to drought preparation and water use efficiency, acknowledging the vital role that continued improvement in water use efficiency provides in maintaining a resilient local water supply.

Since the 1976-1977 drought, Santa Rosa has implemented robust water conservation programs, which have resulted in sustained water reductions and one of the lowest gallons per capita per day in the region. To further our commitment to drought preparation, Santa Rosa recently embarked upon a study of potential alternative water supply sources and development of a Water Supply Alternatives Plan for increasing the City's water supply resiliency and reliability. The STREAM Act could help provide the necessary funding mechanisms to help Santa Rosa and other municipalities alleviate drought conditions in California and in creating more resilient water supplies through diversification of water portfolios.

Furthermore, the STREAM Act will provide necessary investments to modernize our aging infrastructure. The City of Santa Rosa delivers approximately six billion gallons of drinking water, each year, to over 53,000 customer accounts and maintains the sanitary sewer system for over 49,000 customer accounts in Santa Rosa. These systems include roughly

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1,200 miles of water and sewer pipelines. Santa Rosa also operates the Santa Rosa Regional Water Reuse System, which services approximately 230,000 residents in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, and unincorporated portions of Sonoma County. Additionally, Santa Rosa maintains the storm drain system serving a population of 178,000 and includes over 100 miles of open creeks, 322 miles of public underground pipes and over 18,000 structures.

Like countless municipalities, many critical components of Santa Rosa's infrastructure are concurrently needing repair or nearing replacement to avoid potential catastrophic failure. While the City of Santa Rosa is fortunate to have a Capital Improvement Program to maintain aging infrastructure, additional funding is essential to increase capacity to repair and replace infrastructure, maintain affordable and essential water, wastewater, storm water and recycled water services, and to protect human and environmental health and safety.

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If passed by Congress, the STREAM Act will help address these challenges exacerbated by climate change and frequent and more intense drought conditions by assisting municipalities in responsibly preparing for our future through significant investments in infrastructure and water management.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa strongly supports the STREAM Act. We sincerely appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to advance the STREAM Act this Congress.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor

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