



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Cliff Bentz, Chair
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
1331 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
1331 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for Help Hoover Dam Act, H.R. 7776

Dear Chair Bentz and Ranking Member Huffman,

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supports the Help Hoover Dam Act, H.R. 7776, and appreciates you holding a hearing on the bill. Metropolitan is the largest wholesale drinking water provider in the Nation. Our 26 member agencies, either directly or through their sub-agencies, provide water to the nearly 19 million people living in Southern California. Metropolitan holds power contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation based upon California's allocation of power from Hoover Dam. Hydropower from Hoover Dam helps power our operations as we deliver water throughout Southern California.

The Help Hoover Dam Act will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to access and utilize funds that are currently stranded in the Colorado River Dam Fund for operation, maintenance, investment, cleanup actions, and capital improvements within the Boulder Canyon Project at Hoover Dam. Reclamation estimates the Hoover Dam requires \$110 million in repair and upgrade work over the next five years. This legislation will free up approximately \$45 million and growing in stranded funds to help off-set this cost or make other investments that Reclamation, in coordination with Hoover Dam power contractors, determines are needed.

Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill. Metropolitan supports H.R. 7776 and encourages Congress to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adel Hagekhalil", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager and Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Grace Napolitano
The Honorable Ken Calvert