



December 6, 2018

Congressman Paul Cook  
14955 Dale Evans Parkway  
Apple Valley Town Hall  
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Dear Congressman Cook

On behalf of our nearly 1,400 supporters, we urge you to support the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Despite the efforts of many, including Chairman Bishop, LWCF expired on September 30, 2018 due to the failure of Congress to reauthorize this critical program. As Congress remains in session during December for the Lame Duck session, we urge you to prioritize the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress' passage of legislation that achieves full dedicated funding and permanent reauthorization of LWCF.

As you know, California has received over \$2.3 billion from LWCF, including \$300 million in State and Local Assistance grants, enabling conservation and recreation projects in every county and nearly every community in our state. This is far more funding than any other state has received from LWCF.

LWCF continues to make significant investments in our District to help ensure that public lands are open for use by hunters, hikers and others who enjoy recreating on these lands. Across the 8th Congressional District, LWCF has been used to protect historical resources like Samuelson's Rocks in Joshua Tree, sportsmen access and wildlife habitat preservation in the Mojave National Preserve, and recreational resources like the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the San Geronio Wilderness. Additionally, LWCF makes important investments in community parks and recreational facilities such as the Sunset Ridge Picnic Development in Victorville (\$101,000) or the Apple Valley Legacy Trail Park (\$160,000) as just two examples.

From state parks to national monuments, forests to local ballfields and swimming pools, LWCF's contribution to our quality of life and local economies is immeasurable. LWCF has benefitted nearly every Californian.

Unfortunately, an expired LWCF means that revenues from offshore energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf are no longer flowing to cover LWCF program needs at every level—a loss of \$75 million every month while the program remains expired. Congress must immediately rectify this broken promise with the American people.

In the House, H.R. 502 to permanently reauthorize LWCF has over 240 cosponsors and was approved by the House Natural Resources Committee in September. H.R. 6759 was recently introduced to mirror the full and dedicated funding provisions of S. 569 and we hope it will advance in the House as well.

In closing, we reiterate our support for LWCF's full dedicated funding and permanent reauthorization and ask that you do everything in your power to work with others in Congress to achieve this outcome.

Thank you for your attention and for fighting for our rural district!

Steve Bardwell, treasurer  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association

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