The San Francisco International Airport

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Water Resources Development Act Request - Advanced Water Treatment Plant and Recycled Water Distribution

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The San Francisco International Airport (SFO) requests consideration of the Advanced Water Treatment Plant and Recycled Water Distribution project as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorization process. The Airport’s Mel Leong Treatment Plant (MLTP) consists of Industrial Water and Sanitary Water Treatment Plants that treat all wastewater and stormwater collected throughout the airport campus. This project would construct an Advanced Water Treatment Plant (AWTP) and associated Recycled Water Distribution system. The project would treat MLTP effluent water to meet requirements of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Title 22 establishes effluent treatment standards and defines allowable uses for recycled water, such as toilet and urinal flushing, cooling tower circulation, car washing, and landscaping irrigation. The AWTP would also have the capability to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from wastewater prior to discharging to the San Francisco Bay or reusing on campus.

Local/Regional Significance

As you know, 66.4% of California, including the San Francisco Bay Area, is experiencing a Category D2 Severe Drought. This project would enable SFO to conserve water by offsetting a minimum 25% to 40% of SFO’s overall water use, equal to approximately 186 million gallons a year. The Project would treat MLTP effluent water to meet requirements of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. SFO has already invested in recycled water pipes in its new facilities, including Terminals 1 and 2, portions of Terminal 3, the new Administrative Building, and the Grand Hyatt at SFO hotel. This project would construct a recycled water distribution system to transfer the recycled water from the AWTP to these facilities.

This project will have a positive economic impact on the Bay Area and will enhance SFO and local development opportunities. As a non-federal sponsor, SFO will accept responsibility to provide the costs anticipated for future operations, maintenance, and replacement costs of the project elements.

SFO will provide the required local match for this project. Thank you for your consideration of this critical project and your continued support of SFO.

Very truly yours,

Ivar C. Satero  
Airport Director