



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

August 3, 2017

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE: Support for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Proposition 1
Application**

Dear Chair Quintero:

I write in support of Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project in its application for Proposition 1 funding through the Water Supply Investment Program.

I deeply appreciate your work and the work of the California Water Commission to support storage projects that are vital for our water future. I have long worked to secure federal funding for feasibility studies on Los Vaqueros and other CALFED storage projects, and I am grateful for the State's willingness to advance qualified projects through the Water Supply Investment Program.

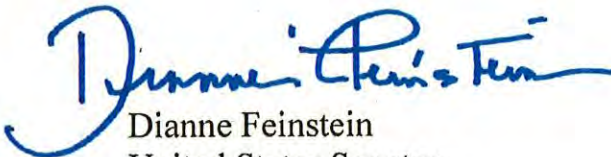
The past few winters have starkly illustrated why California needs to store more water from the wet years for the dry years. As our climate changes, scientists expect the pattern of record-breaking drought and then floods to recur ever more often, elevating the importance of capturing more of the storm runoff that will increasingly dominate our water supply.

The proposed Los Vaqueros expansion is carefully designed to capture excess flows to benefit both water users and the environment. I am told that Los Vaqueros would directly increase municipal, industrial, and agricultural supply by an average 34,000 acre-feet per year, and would provide the opportunity for water transfers that could provide an additional 41,000 acre feet per year. In addition, Los Vaqueros would offer emergency response and drought protection benefits.

On the environmental side, Grassland Water District strongly supports the additional 46,000 acre feet of average water supplies that Los Vaqueros would offer for refuges. Wildlife refuges have lacked reliable sources of Level 4 water supply, and public investment in Los Vaqueros could help secure these important benefits. Given how much the price of water has been increasing, I believe it is a wise investment to take action now to fund a stable source of Level 4 water supply over the long-run.

It has been a long time coming for major surface storage projects in California to be on the cusp of construction. I greatly appreciate your careful consideration of this important project as you disburse Proposition 1 funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me or John Watts of my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: California Water Commission members
Jerry Brown, General Manager, Contra Costa Water District

DF:jw