



May 23, 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:

As the representative organization for businesses in the East Bay, the East Bay Leadership Council (EBLC) has a vested interest in projects that will improve water supplies, resiliency and the environment – water is vital for the health of business, residents and the environment. The EBLC is writing to express support of the Water Supply Investment Program funding application submitted for Proposition 1 for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project.

In 2014, California voters approved \$2.7 billion in funding for water storage projects, signaling that residents understand the importance of water storage and are willing to fund construction projects. The recent drought followed by the wettest year on record only further highlighted the state-wide need for more storage to prepare for drought and flood emergencies. The EBLC agrees that two of the storage proposals are superior to others in providing water supply and Delta ecosystem benefits; namely, Los Vaqueros Reservoir and Sites Reservoir. These off-stream reservoirs provide many environmental and water supply benefits that can be funded with federal, state and local funding. This letter focuses on Los Vaqueros, a separate letter will be provided for Sites Reservoir.

Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir is a smart choice as it is an off-stream reservoir, with fully screened Delta intakes, that can provide multiple public benefits that qualify for Proposition 1 funding. The reservoir is currently owned and operated by Contra Costa Water District. Regional partners have now evaluated the expansion for public benefits and benefits for their own agencies.

The EBLC appreciates the California Water Commission's consideration of this important project and encourages the Commission to approve the Proposition 1 funding application.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Josh Huber, EBLC's Policy Director, with any questions at 925-246-1880.

Sincerely,

Kristin Connelly  
President & CEO

Cc: California Water Commission members

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Kristin B. Connelly