



Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

August 9, 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:

On behalf of Westlands Water District, I am writing to express our support for the Water Supply Investment Program funding application submitted for Proposition 1 funding for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project. Westlands Water District provides Central Valley Project (CVP) water to 700 family-owned farms that cover more than 1,000 square miles of prime farmland in western Fresno and Kings Counties. Westlands' growers harvest more than \$1 billion worth of food and fiber annually, generating approximately \$3.5 billion in farm related economic activities in local communities.

In 2014, California voters approved \$2.7 billion in funding for water storage projects as part of Proposition 1: The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014. The approval by voters signaled that they 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.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir in Brentwood, with fully screened Delta intakes, that has the potential to provide multiple public benefits that qualify for Proposition 1 funding. Public benefits of this project include: supply for South-of-Delta wildlife refuges; drought and emergency preparedness; statewide integration potential; protection of water quality; and recreation enhancement. In addition, South-of-Delta CVP agricultural service contractors like Westlands Water District will benefit from the expansion project by increasing CVP contractors' ability to convey and store water in preparation of future drought conditions. The expansion project will improve water supply reliability by capturing and storing when it is available, and delivering water when it is needed.

The reservoir is currently owned and operated by Contra Costa Water District. Regional partners, including Westlands, have evaluated the expansion for public benefits and benefits for their own agencies. Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir is a project that embodies what the voters approved when they passed Proposition 1. This is a forward-thinking project, operating surface storage in a unique way for regional, environmental, municipal and agricultural benefits.

We appreciate the California Water Commission's consideration of this important project and encourage the Commission to approve the Proposition 1 funding application.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Jose Gutierrez with any questions at (559) 241-6215.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Birmingham
General Manager

Cc: California Water Commission members

Senator	Feinstein	Shelly James	Abajian Peterson	Shelly Abajian@feinstein.senate.gov James Peterson@feinstein.senate.gov scheduling@feinstein.senate.gov
Senator	Harris	Matt	Rogers	Matthew_Rogers@harris.senate.gov
Congressman	McCarthy	Chris	Duncan	chris.duncan@mail.house.gov
Congressman	Denham	Jason	Larrabee	Jason.larrabee@mail.house.gov
Congressman	Valadao	Cole	Rojewski	cole.rojewski@mail.house.gov
Congressman	Nunes	Anthony	Ratekin	anthony.ratekin@mail.house.gov
Congressman	Costa	Jim Scott	Costa Petersen	congressmanjimcosta@mail.house.gov scott.petersen@mail.house.gov costadistrictschedule@mail.house.gov
Congressman	McClintock	Igor	Birman	igor.birman@mail.house.gov