

SENATE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

April 30, 2018

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

RE: Los Vaqueros Expansion Project

Thank you for your thoughtful review of the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project. We are encouraged by the recently released revised staff recommended Public Benefit Ratios, which placed this project as one of the highest ranked in the State.

The proposed project builds upon the successful first phase of expansion from 100,000 to 160,000 acre-feet funded by the Contra Costa Water District and completed in 2012. Moreover, the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project is unique in that it is supported by local agency partners and federal funding. The expanded reservoir will improve steelhead habitat, provide an emergency water supply, reduce flood risks to disadvantaged communities, expand groundwater recharge, and provide water to wildlife refuges.

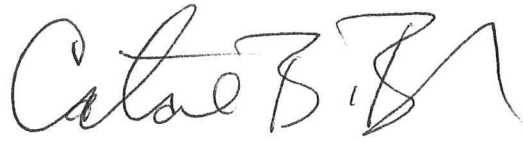
Los Vaqueros watershed is located in the foothills between Livermore and Brentwood, east of San Francisco. The Los Vaqueros Dam was completed in 1998. At that time, the reservoir had a capacity of 100,000 acre-feet. The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) owns the dam, pipelines, associated pump stations and the watershed. CCWD ratepayers have been the source of funding for the construction and management of Los Vaqueros.

The Commission staff recently released a revised staff recommended Public Benefit Ratio for this project. The updated Public Benefit Ratio is now 1.77, up from 0.46. We are encouraged to see the revised ratio, which demonstrates that this project exceeds the threshold for measuring public benefits.

The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project is worthy of Water Bond funding and we, the undersigned, urge you to fully fund the \$459 million needed to complete this project.

X 

Steven M. Glazer
Senator, District 7

X 

Catharine Baker
Assembly, District 16

cc:

Carol Baker, Vice-Chair
Andrew Ball, Member
Joseph Byrne, Member
Daniel Curtain, Member
Joe Del Bosque, Member
Maria Herrera, Member
Catherine Keig, Member