

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 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:

We are 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.

California needs more storage to prepare for times of drought and flood emergencies. In 2014, California voters recognized that need and 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 recent drought followed by one of the wettest years 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. Our understanding is that the reservoir can be expanded to provide multiple public benefits that qualify for Proposition 1 funding. We are told that public benefits of this project could include: supply for South-of-Delta wildlife refuges; drought and emergency preparedness; statewide integration potential; protection of water quality; and recreation enhancement.

The reservoir is currently owned and operated by Contra Costa Water District, which has informed us that regional partners have now evaluated the expansion for public benefits and benefits for their own agencies.

Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir appears to be an innovative project that embodies what the voters approved when they passed Proposition 1. We believe expanding an existing facility to extend operational flexibility for other agencies, while providing significant public benefits to the environment, is a wise use of local ratepayer and state taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Andrew Perlstein in Congressman DeSaulnier's office with any questions at (202) 225-2095.


Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Ami Bera
Member of Congress

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