

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Diane Burgis, 3rd District
Karen Mitchoff, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

August 8, 2017

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

RE: Support for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project - Proposition 1 Application

Dear Chair Quintero:

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is writing to express our support for the Water Storage Investment Program funding application submitted for Proposition 1 funding for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project.

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 statewide need for more storage to prepare for drought and flood emergencies.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir west of Byron within Contra Costa County, 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.

An existing initiative that could be affected by the Expansion Project is the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The HCP/NCCP was adopted by the cities of Brentwood, Clayton, Oakley, Pittsburg and Contra Costa County in 2007 to implement an ambitious conservation strategy in the region. The HCP/NCCP has acquired over 13,000 acres of land and completed restoration projects to benefit special status species in the region. Notwithstanding the potential benefits from the Los Vaqueros expansion, the project includes a proposed alignment for the Transfer-Bethany Pipeline that will bisect existing conserved lands protected by the County and its partners who implement the HCP/NCCP. The County has alerted CCWD to the critical importance of protecting these conserved lands. The County understands and expects that CCWD will

collaborate to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to conserved lands to effectively address the County's concerns with the pipeline location.

Overall, 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 and environmental benefits.

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

If you have any questions regarding Contra Costa County's comments, please contact Ryan Hernandez at (925) 674-7824.

Sincerely,

Federal D. Glover, Chair
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, District V

Cc: California Water Commission Members
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa Water District