

California Water Commission

Members and Mr. Joe Yun, *Executive Director*

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Dear Commissioners and Mr. Yun:

I am in full support of development of the proposed Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir project on the San Joaquin River northeast of Fresno. I'm writing to ask that you take favorable action and award the **\$1.3 billion in state bond funding recently requested** under the State of California Water Storage Investment Program by the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority.

The central San Joaquin Valley has been the region hardest hit and most hurt by California's water crisis over the past decade. The valley must have additional surface water storage to help restore water supply reliability, provide groundwater sustainability and meet environmental needs. Temperance Flat will provide critically-needed benefits for each of these requirements.

Just think of what Temperance Flat's additional capacity of nearly 1.3 million acre feet would have meant during this past winter and spring. After five record years of drought, heavy rain fell and a massive snowpack covered the mountains but much of it – 2.5 million acre-feet from the San Joaquin River alone – was ultimately lost to huge flood releases because there simply was not enough storage space available. More high-flow Sierra runoff must be captured and stored while it is occurring for later beneficial use.

Temperance Flat would have many beneficial uses. The project must be funded and built to:

- Help reverse negative impacts of California's water supply crisis on the valley. That will require much improved surface water availability and reliability south of the Delta — as Temperance Flat would provide.
- Capture high flows as they are occurring in big water years with surface storage that would permit gradual transport and sinking of water into the ground so we can comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- Improve public health and safety with much better San Joaquin River flood protection and minimize flood release water losses to the ocean.
- Provide supplemental San Joaquin River environmental and fishery enhancement water flows as well as a supply of stored water for wildlife refuges.
- Use an innovative operational plan to establish reservoir water storage investment shares agreed upon by many of the valley's principal water agencies to help provide local project funding along with future storage management, creating additional water supply yield and storage management capabilities that include additional carryover supplies plus options for water transfers and exchanges.
- Improve public recreation opportunities.
- Provide a south-of-the-Delta source of emergency water supply for Southern California and other parts of California now relying upon fragile Delta water infrastructure.

Those of us who live and work in the San Joaquin Valley, with its rapidly growing population, business and industry as well as the world's most productive agriculture need additional surface storage for increased water supply reliability in all valley regions and during dry years. It is a storage project that defines what voters had in mind when they approved the water bond, Proposition 1.

Temperance Flat, with its highly favorable and versatile south-of-Delta location, is a water supply investment that California must make.

Sincerely yours,