



December 13, 2021

California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Submitted electronically to: cwc@water.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment for Commission Findings on the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, and the Sites Reservoir Project

Dear Chair Alvarado and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, I write to express our support for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion and the Sites Reservoir projects. I respectfully urge the California Water Commission to make the appropriate finding for eligibility and feasibility as required by Water Code Section 79757 established by Proposition 1.

The Bay Area Council represents more than 300 of the Bay Area's largest employers and is committed to making the Bay Area the most innovative, globally competitive, and sustainable region in the world. That cannot be accomplished without a safe and reliable water supply. Today, the entire Bay Area is in a declared state of drought emergency after just two dry winters. Some parts of the Bay Area, such as Santa Clara County, could face mandatory rationing as high as 40 percent without adequate rain and snowfall this winter.

Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Act of 2014, was approved by California voters on the promise of improved water security and environmental stewardship through strategic investment in projects and programs that deliver public benefits. The Pacheco and Sites Projects were previously determined to meet the stringent requirements of the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) by the Commission and were awarded conditional eligibility for \$496 million and \$837 million, respectively.

Sites Reservoir would improve California's drought resilience by creating an additional 1.5 million acre feet of off-stream storage for dry years. Sites will be operated in coordination with other Northern California reservoirs such as Shasta, Oroville, and Folsom to greatly increase flexibility, reliability and resiliency of statewide water supplies in drier periods. That's why Sites Reservoir enjoys broad, statewide bipartisan support.

The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project would strengthen the drought resilience of California's innovation economy by storing an additional 134,500 acre feet of water, enough

for 1.4 million residents for one year, while also improving flood resilience for communities downstream. The project would also provide critical flood protection and ensure yearlong flows on Pacheco Creek, which currently runs dry for significant portions of the year.

For these and other reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to maintain its support for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project and the Sites Reservoir Project, find that the projects are feasible and that they have met the statutory milestones necessary to remain eligible for Water Storage Investment Program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Covert", with a stylized, flowing script.

Adrian Covert
Senior Vice President, Public Policy
Bay Area Council