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March 15, 2022

Ms. Teresa Alvarado  
Chair, California Water Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chair Alvarado:

I write to ask the California Water Commission to continue its support of the Kern Fan Project and Sites Reservoir – two water storage projects that are critical to the Central Valley and will benefit the entire state.

The Kern Fan Project consists of canals, pump stations and a new turnout at the California Aqueduct to convey water between the project facilities and the California Aqueduct. Sites Reservoir captures and stores stormwater flows from the Sacramento River for use by urban and agricultural uses.

California is facing another year of drought – its third consecutive year. Conditions are so dire that Californians have been asked to conserve their water use. There is talk of a statewide conservation mandate.

Farmers have already been told they will not receive any allocations from the State Water Project. Many in the Central Valley are either paying a premium for their water or fallowing their land.

But it does not have to be this way.

That is why voters passed Proposition 1 in 2014 to dedicate \$2.7 billion to fund water storage. They wanted their state leaders to plan and build water storage for dry years. This critical funding will provide drinking water for the State's nearly 40 million residents, help maintain river flows, and irrigate California's robust farms that grow a third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of its fruits and nuts.

Water agencies and districts across the State, including the Kern County Water Agency have declared a water emergency. Farmers are forced to rely on already strained groundwater basins to make up for the shortage.

The need for reliable and dependable water supply infrastructure and conveyance is paramount to public health, animal life and economic viability.

The State has not planned adequately for drought years. It is my hope that you reverse this course and dedicate additional funding to the Kern Fan Project and Sites Reservoir to meet the growing demand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vince Fong". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Vince Fong  
Assemblyman, 34<sup>th</sup> District