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16TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
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WATER, POWER AND OCEANS



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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April 21, 2015

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

**RE: California Water Storage Projects**

California Water Commissioners:

Water is the lifeline for the San Joaquin Valley and without reliable access to this resource, the agricultural epicenter of California and our nation will perish. As we all know, California is facing an unprecedented drought and our nearly obsolete water storage infrastructure is making a dire situation catastrophic. As such, building additional surface storage reservoirs to increase the resiliency of California's water system must be a top priority.

There is no question that additional water storage capabilities, both surface and subsurface, are critical if California is to continue to grow in population and still meet the world's needs as a main food supplier. If we are unable to collect an adequate supply of water during wet years, we are doomed to repeat this cycle of water uncertainty and devastation during dry years.

Building larger, modern and efficient storage facilities in California will require participation from local, state and federal governments. Therefore, it will be imperative that the state commit to matching funds for California's federal water projects. By investing state, federal and local monies, the resulting water storage infrastructure projects will be financed and another tool would be available to meet the state's long-term water needs and would create additional flexibility in the system.

The current drought is causing irreparable harm to the San Joaquin Valley, devastating our families, communities and businesses. California's outdated and subpar water storage system no longer possess the capability to keep the state functional during dry years. There is no alternative to investing in critical water storage projects and I strongly support the financing of Temperance Flat reservoir, Shasta reservoir, Sites reservoir, the expansion of San Luis reservoir and the expansion of Los Vaqueros reservoir.

Surface and subsurface storage projects are key parts of solving our long-term water challenges for all Californians. There is no single solution and we must use all the water tools in our water toolbox.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

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