



County of Fresno

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September 13, 2016

California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

RE: Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir

Dear California Water Commission Members,

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors would like to voice our strong support for the proposal to build Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir in Fresno and Madera counties. Temperance Flat has been identified as being among the best locations for new multi-objective surface storage in California.

Over the past few years natural drought conditions have been particularly difficult on the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. Regulatory curtailments of water supplies have simply been devastating to valley agriculture and much of our economy. At the same time, this lack of surface water led to understandable overutilization and overdraft of the valley's greatest reserve supply — groundwater. As a consequence, water tables have plummeted; wells by the thousands have dried up and failed, demonstrating repeatedly the absolute necessity of developing additional surface water storage to capture high flows in big storm events and water years, putting the stored water to beneficial use. This includes capturing and storing excess Sierra runoff to enable its use for groundwater recharge in the lengthy process required to convey and percolate water for such purposes.

Current storage at Millerton Lake/Friant Dam has an annual average inflow of about 1.8 million acre-feet (capacity 520,500 acre-feet, but with "active" available storage above "dead pool" of just 385,000 acre-feet) is currently unable to store water in successive years. Temperance Flat would create additional capacity of some 1.3 million acre-feet. It would be managed to provide a broad array of public benefits, including ecosystem restoration, flood control, recreation, water quality, and emergency water supply, in combination with non-public benefits water supply and hydropower benefits.


The Temperance Flat Dam and Storage Project will have deep reverberating impact on the future of not only agriculture in the valley but also on the countless other industries and people that will benefit from the additional water that this project would provide.


The Fresno County Board of Supervisors sees this project as a critical economic development driver for our region. We are proud to join a diverse coalition of organizations and agencies in supporting this project and we ask for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Fresno County Board of Supervisors


Chairman Ernest Buddy Mendes, District 4


Supervisor Henry Perea, District 3


Vice Chairman Brian Pacheco, District 1


Supervisor Deborah A. Poochigian, District 5


Supervisor Andreas Borgeas, District 2

cc: Fresno County State Legislative Delegation
Paul Yoder, State Legislative Advocate
Mario Santoyo, Executive Director San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority