



# TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCHERIA

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE

September 7, 2016

The Honorable Joseph Byrne, Chair  
California Water Commission  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Leanne Walker-Grant  
Tribal Chairperson

Beverly J. Hunter  
Tribal Vice-Chairperson

Craig Martinez  
Tribal Secretary/Treasurer

Matthew W. Jones  
Tribal Council Member

Richard L. Jones  
Tribal Council Member

Dear Mr. Byrne and Members of the Commission:

The Table Mountain Rancheria, located within the Sierra foothills northeast of Fresno, is a Board member of the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) organized and established over the past year.

This letter is to inform your Commission of Table Mountain Rancheria's participation — along with San Joaquin Valley counties, cities and water agencies — in seeking funding authorized for new water storage and related facilities under Proposition 1. We view the California water bond authorized by state voters in 2014 as being of tremendous importance to our Tribal members and all the San Joaquin Valley residents that our JPA represents.

The JPA'S primary objective is to obtain funding from the bond, other state and federal sources, and regional and local agencies and institutions with which the proposed Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir project along with other water supply infrastructure projects can be developed. As you may be aware, the JPA recently entered into an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for a partnership that will complete the federal feasibility report and initiate the process gathering information needed to refine the Temperance Flat project's public and regional benefits, based on the Commission's water storage investment program regulations. At the same time, Table Mountain Rancheria and its fellow JPA members will be seeking for similar state or federal statutes or grant programs to fund additional water infrastructure improvement projects.

This is a major commitment by the Rancheria and the other San Joaquin Valley agencies with which we are partnering. The Rancheria's participation is also motivated by our own Tribal needs as well as our desire to be part of the solution to the severe water crisis being faced by the Valley community as a whole.

23736  
Sky Harbour Road  
Post Office  
Box 410  
Friant  
California  
93626  
(559) 822-2587  
Fax  
(559) 822-2693

The Rancheria is no different than any other local Valley government, place or region for which water supplies are short of meeting its needs. In our case, there is essentially no supply of water available directly to the Rancheria. For years, it has been necessary for the Rancheria to purchase water from agencies who convey it by truck to our Rancheria. This arrangement is very expensive, inconvenient and in the long term unacceptable because of the safety and environmental impact that trucking water can pose to the community and valley. Temperance Flat holds the key to providing an affordable, adequate and conventional water supply for the Rancheria's health, welfare, safety, and future growth and development.

On a broader basis, the Rancheria's partnering counties — Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kings and Tulare — and communities have borne the brunt of massive reductions in Central Valley Project (CVP) water availability. These have occurred over the past decade as a result of severe natural drought and increasingly stringent federal regulatory actions and court decisions. The latter have had a severe effect upon the ability of the CVP and State Water Project to pump and export north state water from the Delta to Central and Southern California. Widespread hardship has resulted, particularly in highly-productive agricultural Valley areas that have been left with little or no water, and rapidly diminishing groundwater resources. Many of the hundreds of thousands of Valley farmland acres that have been fallowed or upon which production has been reduced dramatically as a result of reduced water allocations over the past several years are within these five counties. Far too many people have lost jobs and income as a result. This injures us all.

Projects our Authority was organized to seek and support have been conceived to provide new water supply reserves and operations flexibility for Table Mountain Rancheria and counties and communities in many parts of the Valley. It is our belief that even broader benefits in more distant portions of California may very well be possible and practical.

Temperance Flat Reservoir and its large capacity of more than 1.2 million acre-feet would result in significant additional amounts of high-flow runoff being captured that are now lost to flood releases. These releases from Friant Dam routinely occur in big water years because of limited existing storage capacity. The San Joaquin River naturally discharges an average of about 1.8 million acre-feet into the CVP's existing Millerton Lake but Millerton can hold only 520,000 acre-feet. Even more frustrating, Friant Dam's design created a "dead storage" pool of 135,000 acre-feet. In big water years, Millerton Lake simply cannot contain and control the river. Over the past 15 years, 30 million acre-feet of San Joaquin River flood releases have been lost to the ocean.

Chairman Byrne  
September 7, 2016  
Page 3 of 3

More storage would enhance water supplies, flood protection and the environment. It is also essential if the valley is to be able to capture and beneficially use more flood water to recharge plunging groundwater levels and reduce land subsidence. This project is vitally important to Table Mountain Rancheria.

The JPA will be addressing all of these conditions and more specifically the project's public benefits in the application for bond funding it will be submitting in the months to come for Temperance Flat, one of the major CALFED proposals specifically noted as leading intended beneficiaries for Proposition 1-Chapter 8 funding investment.

Table Mountain Rancheria trusts that the Commission will provide Temperance Flat with the thorough and positive consideration this project and the San Joaquin Valley deserve.

Sincerely,



Leanne Walker-Grant, Tribal Chairperson  
Table Mountain Rancheria