



CALIFORNIA  
FRESH FRUIT  
ASSOCIATION

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December 12, 2017

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

Re: December 13, 2017 Meeting, Agenda Item # 7, WSIP Applicant Presentations

Dear California Water Commissioners:

The California Fresh Fruit Association is an agricultural trade organization representing its grower and shipper members on state and federal legislative and regulatory matters. Our association consists of family farming operations that grow, pack and ship permanent crop, fresh fruit commodities (except citrus and avocados) throughout the U.S. and into numerous export markets. On their behalf, the Association has submitted multiple comment letters to the California Water Commission in support of projects most deserving of the public share of resources. As you continue your evaluation, we write today to continue our expression of support, and provide, for your consideration, a brief background covering some of our most relevant involvement to enable Proposition 1 (bond), both as a matter of work on the legislative policy (AB 1471, 2014) and politically, through our campaign support to pass the bond. Ultimately, our involvement and decision to support the bond resulted from interaction with both the Schwarzenegger and Brown Administrations, various Legislatures, and participation as part of a broad based coalition dedicated to securing California's water's future, leading with securing funding for public benefits resulting from above-ground surface storage projects.

On June 17, 2009, the California Fresh Fruit Association (then known as the California Grape & Tree Fruit League) met with former Governor Schwarzenegger and Cabinet Secretary Victoria Bradshaw to discuss the Administration's interest in water infrastructure development and to explore the willingness of the Association to support efforts to further develop the state's water infrastructure. At the time, the Association left the encounter committed to working towards developing California's water future, in recognition of current and projected future water demands and our direct interest in securing water supplies to enable the production of food.

After subsequent discussions with Governor Schwarzenegger, the Association held a meeting with Senator Dave Cogdill in April 2010 to discuss an outstanding request over pledging support for the "Safe, Clean, Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010." Ultimately, our public endorsement resulted from the strong, shared interest with the Administration and the effort's legislative champions in enabling significant financial resources for further developing California's water supply infrastructure.

During the week of August 11, 2014, the Association engaged members of the Legislature during the final stages of the legislative debate on Assembly Bill 1471, working to gain legislator support for securing a \$3 billion dollar commitment for above-ground surface storage projects. Despite the Administration's first mark at \$2 billion, and subsequent discussion with other interested parties settling at \$2.5 billion, the Association, along with others including the citrus, cotton, dairy, rice, and tree nut processor industries, worked with the Legislature on making an additional gain, up to \$2.7 billion. In this moment, a bi-partisan group of legislators representing Central Valley

districts worked with our Association, and a handful of others, to ensure we created an opportunity to have the financial wherewithal to execute an above-ground, water supply infrastructure vision. Most notably, Assemblywoman Connie Conway, Assemblyman Rudy Salas, Assemblyman Henry T. Perea, Assemblyman Adam Gray, Assemblywoman Kristen Olsen, Assemblyman Jim Patterson, Senator Andy Vidak, Senator Jean Fuller, Senator Tom Berryhill, Senator Anthony Cannella, and Senator Jim Nielsen came together to ensure \$2.7 billion was created with a purpose, to support of above-ground water storage projects.

As a result of the aforementioned efforts, namely the intense focus onto funding above-ground surface storage, a 37-0 vote in the Senate, and 77-2 vote in the Assembly, Governor Brown's signature made good on the execution of the vision to dedicate sufficient resources to develop California's above-ground water supply infrastructure; as, for instance, is being presented before you today with the presentation on the *Temperance Flat project*.

To address resiliency into the future and to ensure we are better prepared to address challenges that may limit the availability of water resources, we believe large, above-ground surface storage projects are best positioned to address future needs.

In closing, from the campaign to pass Proposition 1 (2014) to present-day, we are at a point where the people of California are watching the Commission as it wields an important responsibility and evaluates the development of new and increased water storage. We urge the Commission to evaluate these projects in an efficient and deliberate manner and to choose to maximize public benefits in a way that only new water storage can provide for all of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Valadez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Valadez  
Director, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs  
California Fresh Fruit Association

Cc: California Water Commissioners  
Mr. Joseph Yun, Executive Director