

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 9, 2018

The Honorable Brenda Burman
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, MIB 7600
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Burman:

We support investment in smart, cost-effective water storage projects that are able to deliver multiple benefits for our urban and agricultural sectors as well as for our state's fish and wildlife resources. As the Bureau of Reclamation develops its project list for FY19 Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act funding, we urge you to include funding for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (Phase 2), the Sites Reservoir Storage Project, the Shasta Dam and Reservoir Project, and additional WIIN Act Section 4007 projects.

The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project Phase 2 (LVE) is at the pre-construction activities phase, which includes design, geotechnical investigations, permitting, and value engineering. Providing resources would be intended to secure necessary refuge-water delivery rights through the constructed LVE conveyance facilities. The stated purpose of this funding is to accelerate the delivery of water from the project to the refuges as allowed for under the WIIN Act. The prior Federal investment in LVE Project has totaled approximately \$18 million, which helped to accomplish the Phase 1 expansion in 2012 and funded the completion of the draft Federal Feasibility Report for the Phase 2 expansion. The feasibility report recommended implementation of the project. LVE recently received positive support from the California Water Commission (CWC), equaling \$459 million in State (Proposition 1) funding. With state and WIIN Act funding, LVE could begin preconstruction engineering and design in 2019 and begin actual construction with a ground breaking in 2020.

The Sites Reservoir Project is set to begin critical pre-construction activities, such as geotechnical data collection, advancing the engineering designs and project's operations plans, and make key decisions regarding how best to develop the project's hydropower potential. This work is expected to commence in late 2018 and extend into 2020. The Sites Project Authority expects to spend \$374 million (2018 dollars) for the project's phase 2. This request is less than the target Federal level of participation as identified in Reclamation's draft feasibility report, dated August 2017, for a project having a benefit-cost ratio of 1.48. Further, it is important to note that a 50%-50% cost-share with the State is anticipated.

We also urge the Bureau of Reclamation to recommend a request for essential pre-construction activities in FY19 for the Temperance Flat Project. Pre-construction activities are anticipated to include project management, environmental and cultural resources work, land resource management and construction design. The Bureau of Reclamation continues work on the draft feasibility report, with the initial benefit-cost ratios ranging from 1.17 to 4.99. Early pre-construction funding is critical to keeping the Temperance Flat project on a path towards construction and implementation.

Finally, we urge the Bureau of Reclamation to request funding for the Shasta Dam and Reservoir Enlargement Project and Friant-Kern Canal Subsidence Challenges Project, both critical components of the Central Valley Project and should be included in funding priorities. Enlarging Shasta Dam is estimated to provide an additional 630,000 acre-feet of water storage while improving flood control and water quality in the Sacramento River. It is our understanding that project pre-construction activities are well underway, and requesting funds in Fiscal Year 2019 will prevent any gaps in funding and help move this project expeditiously to construction. In addition, restoring full conveyance capacity to the Friant-Kern Canal will increase storage capacity in Millerton Reservoir, increase average surface water deliveries that have been reduced to capacity restraints resulting from subsidence, and ensure the proposed Upper San Joaquin River Storage project will be able to deliver full benefits.

As California's water resources become further constrained, these projects offer real solutions by augmenting surface storage and providing certainty for our water future. We respectfully ask that you give these important projects your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



JEFF DENHAM
Member of Congress



DANA ROHRABACHER
Member of Congress



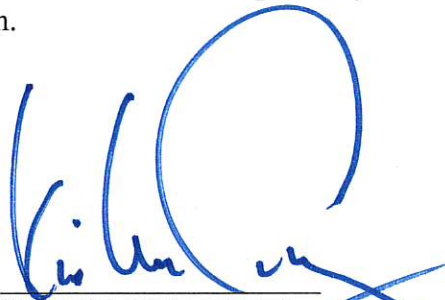
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Member of Congress



STEVE KNIGHT
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



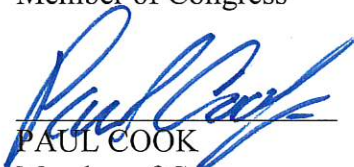
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Member of Congress



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DAVID G. VALADAO
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DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress

T. M. McClintock

TOM MCCLINTOCK
Member of Congress