

California Legislature

June 15, 2016

San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority
2800 W Burrel Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

Dear San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority:

As members of the San Joaquin Valley Caucus and strong supporters of the proposal to build Temperance Flat RM 274 Dam and Reservoir (“Temperance Flat”), we want to ensure that the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority puts the best proposal forward so Temperance Flat is the site selected for California’s next water storage project. As defined in Proposition 1, “projects shall be selected by the commission through a competitive public process that ranks potential projects based on the expected return for public investment as measured by the magnitude of the public benefits.” We stand ready to help advocate for this very important project.

Temperance Flat was a key component during the election campaign in which voters approved Proposition 1. Additionally, as the only large storage project which would benefit the San Joaquin River, California’s most challenged river, its importance to the state and valley watersheds is self-evident. It is essential that those benefits are precisely defined so there is no doubt about its necessity.

As you know, Proposition 1 called for \$2.7 billion for “public benefits associated with water storage projects that improve the operation of the state water system, are cost effective, and provide a new improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions.” Therefore, we believe it is imperative that the proposal looks at the project in a way that meets the most critical statewide needs.

We think it is important to address the following questions to make sure that the most comprehensive plan is presented:

- 1) To ensure that the Temperance Flat site is selected, what specific public benefits are being highlighted in the proposal?
- 2) How will Temperance Flat be integrated into the entire water system of Tulare and San Joaquin water basins, ground water and surface water?
- 3) Temperance Flat will not be completed until 2030 and communities in the San Joaquin Valley will look vastly different than they do now as a result of climate change. How does that affect the proposal and the cost benefit analysis?
- 4) Is the authority planning to provide the California Water Commission a detailed breakdown of the remaining financing necessary to fully fund the project?

We invite you to brief our caucus on the current status of the proposal and address our questions. We are ready to assist in developing the best proposal possible. We look forward to hearing from the Authority.

Sincerely,



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