

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

August 3, 2016

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

Dear California Water Commission Members:

As members of the San Joaquin Valley Caucus we write to voice our strong support for the proposal to build Temperance Flat Dam (at San Joaquin River mile 274) and Reservoir (“Temperance Flat”) in Fresno and Madera counties upstream from Friant Dam. We understand the Commission will weigh the public benefits of each proposed project as criteria in granting project funding under Section 8 of Proposition 1 (the “Water Bond”). As representatives of the San Joaquin Valley, we would like to highlight the public benefits this project will have for the Central Valley and the entire State.

In general, Temperance Flat is the only potential large storage project that will benefit the San Joaquin River, California’s most challenged stream. It will provide additional storage, flood control protection, and emergency response for drinking water. Environmentally, the most recent draft of the Bureau of Reclamation’s feasibility report on the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation found that Temperance Flat will provide significant benefits for enhancement of the San Joaquin River ecosystem, including cold water fish like the Chinook Salmon. The Bureau of Reclamation and the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which these project benefits, and related project information, will be detailed for your consideration once a formal application for project funding is filed with the Commission.

In addition, the San Joaquin is a major tributary to the environmentally troubled Delta. Temperance Flat will provide enhanced flows and cold-water releases below Friant Dam during critical periods of the salmon run and will potentially contribute to other Delta benefits, including improved water quality.

As you know, the effects of the drought have been most felt in the San Joaquin Valley. Rapid urbanization in the San Joaquin Valley and growing water needs in California has demonstrated the absolute necessity of developing additional surface water storage to capture and permit beneficial use of high flows in big storm events and water years. This includes capturing and storing such excess Sierra runoff as to permit its use for groundwater recharge in the lengthy process required to convey and percolate water for such purposes. The Temperance Flat Project will also provide enhancements to environmental and fishery restoration projects.

Although the Temperance Flat application remains in formative stages, our Caucus believes it is of great importance to share, on behalf of our San Joaquin Valley constituents, the vital public benefits this project presents that will assist residents and businesses in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the State.

We believe that Temperance Flat will meet the public benefit tests, both regional and statewide, provide important environmental and water quality improvements, and will be a tremendous benefit to the San Joaquin Valley and all of California. Our Caucus looks forward to working with the Commission in putting Proposition 1 storage funds to work on this worthwhile project.

Ja AD31

~~Primo~~ AD26

Ch SD12

Quinn AD34

Kurt AD12

Frank Biglow AD5

Jim Lee AD9

Cathleen Galgiani SD05

John AD23

Ed AD32

John AD21

Ch SD08