



February 22, 2019

Mr. Ernest A. Conant
Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Director Conant:

This letter is to advise you that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority) supports the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) investigating the feasibility of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project as part of the San Luis Low Point Project.

Increased water storage throughout the Central Valley Project (CVP), and particularly increased storage south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta, is an essential component of restoring long-term water supply reliability for Water Authority members. This is why the Water Authority has executed a contributed funds agreement with Reclamation to further develop the expansion of San Luis Reservoir and is supportive of federal storage projects currently under development. These projects, when complete, will operate in conjunction with one another, creating opportunities for improved water management and efficiencies that do not currently exist.

Another project that would benefit Water Authority member agencies is expanding the existing Pacheco Reservoir from its current capacity of 5,500 acre-feet to 140,000 acre-feet along with constructing a pipeline to connect the dam to the Pacheco Conduit. The Pacheco Conduit currently delivers water from San Luis Reservoir to Santa Clara and San Benito counties, and this project would provide significant additional water storage and delivery capacity. This additional capacity would help alleviate the pressure on the San Luis Reservoir to deliver water to these counties when the reservoir is at its low point. By eliminating these low point concerns, an expanded Pacheco Reservoir would allow Reclamation to make an estimated 200,000 acre-feet of additional water available to other south-of-Delta contractors, such as Water Authority members. For these reasons, the Water Authority supports the expansion of the Pacheco Reservoir, and we respectfully request that this alternative be given all due consideration.

The Water Authority appreciates Reclamation's consideration of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 826-9696 or via email at Federico.barajas@sldmwa.org.

Sincerely,


Federico Barajas
Executive Director

cc: Alicia Forsythe
Richard Welsh

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