



May 24, 2019

The Honorable Josh Harder  
United States Representative  
131 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 2473, the SAVE Water Resources Act

Dear Mr. Harder:

The San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority) is pleased to express its support for H.R. 2473, the Securing Access for the central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act. If enacted into law, this legislation would provide additional tools to address critical water reliability challenges across the western United States, and in particular, California's Central Valley. The Water Authority believes that innovative federal efforts like those contained within this bill will help citizens and water agencies to put water infrastructure on a more sustainable path.

The Water Authority would like to express its strong support for increasing surface water storage south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta, and in particular, for expanding San Luis Reservoir and Pacheco Reservoir. To eliminate any ambiguity with respect to expanding the latter, the Water Authority requests that Section 5 (4) be modified to clarify the provisions related to San Luis Reservoir and to expedite the feasibility studies for both Pacheco and San Luis Reservoirs:

**SEC. 5. FEASIBILITY STUDIES.**

As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, in compliance with all environmental and other applicable laws, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete all remaining feasibility studies associated with the following projects:

- (1) North-Of-Delta Offstream Storage (Sites Reservoir Project) in Colusa County, California;
- (2) Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, located in the foothills of the Coast Range mountains west of Patterson, California;
- (3) Los Vaqueros Reservoir in Contra Costa County, California;
- (4) San Luis Reservoir Expansion in the San Joaquin Valley, California;
- (5) Pacheco Reservoir Expansion in Santa Clara County, California; and

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(6) Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Alternative Plan as the NED Plan and the Preferred Alternative for the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project.

Expansion of Pacheco Reservoir (whether as a standalone project or as part of the San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement) and San Luis Reservoir would provide significant benefits for south-of-Delta water users, including water users served by the Water Authority's member agencies. The addition of language to ensure that both projects move forward expeditiously would serve only to strengthen the legislation for water users in the Central Valley and provide additional water supply reliability benefits for California water users.

Reliable water supplies are essential to public health and regional economic viability, yet federal investments have not kept pace with water infrastructure investment needs, and in fact, have significantly declined. Today, federal dollars comprise just four percent of the annual investment made in water supply and wastewater treatment in the United States. This level of federal investment is insufficient to adequately support communities that need to address aging infrastructure, resiliency challenges, increasing costs of regulatory compliance and expanding debt service obligations. It is critically important to have sufficient infrastructure in place to optimize water supplies during constantly changing climatic conditions.

Thank you for your efforts to provide Californians with tools to help survive and recover from years of drought and to prepare for future water shortages. The Water Authority believes the SAVE Water Resources Act takes an important step toward addressing this critical need. It stands ready to assist you and other members of the House Natural Resources Committee to help move your bill expeditiously.

Regards,



Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

cc: The Honorable Jerry McNerney (CA-09)  
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11)  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)  
The Honorable Eric Swalwell (CA-15)  
The Honorable Jim Costa (CA-16)  
The Honorable Ro Khanna (CA-17)  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo (CA-18)  
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta (CA-20)  
The Honorable TJ Cox (CA-21)  
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources  
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans & Wildlife  
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans & Wildlife  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)  
The Honorable Kamala Harris (D-CA)