SOLURI MESERVE
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August 16, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL
(clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org; board@valleywater.org)

Chair Varela and Board Members
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5700 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, California 95123

RE: Misleading Information in PowerPoint Slides for Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings Involving Pacheco Dam

Dear Chair Varela and Board Members:

This firm represents Stop the Pacheco Dam Project Coalition, an unincorporated association working with conservation and other groups to protect Santa Clara County's ratepayers and the environment, as well as working ranchlands, from the environmentally destructive, high-cost, and high-risk Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project ("Pacheco Dam"). This letter seeks to clarify and point out the mischaracterizations in the PowerPoint Presentation attached to the August 18th Water Storage Exploratory Committee (Item # 4.5)[1] and the August 22nd Board of Directors (Item # 8.1)[2] meeting agendas.

I. Lost Opportunities

All of the slides provided under the "Lost Opportunity Costs" section of the presentation are misleading. The presentation frames these so-called lost opportunities as if the reservoir had been built; then, Valley Water could have capitalized on these opportunities. However, the reservoir was never planned to be finished during water year 2023; therefore, it is unclear how these "opportunities" could have been lost. In the 2017 Notice of Preparation and Initial Study for the Pacheco Reservoir, the project was not

[1] The August 18th Water Storage Exploratory Committee meeting agenda can be accessed at: https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/valleywater.org.us-west-1/s3fs-public/WSEC-Agenda-08182023.pdf

[2] The August 22nd Valley Water Board of Directors meeting agenda can be accessed at: https://scvwd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

expected to be operational until 2029.[3] Further, the delays in this project are a direct reflection of the undesirability and infeasibility of the project.

Additionally, attempting to use this information to show what would occur if the project is abandoned is incorrect because many of these benefits could be realized from other projects. Further, avoiding the environmental destruction from the project would be a tremendous benefit, which is not discussed. Therefore, the information provided in the slides is meaningless at best. However, at worst, it misrepresents the facts and misleads the public about the "losses" that might be experienced by Valley Water. This presentation appears to be yet another attempt from Valley Water to continue its misguided rationalization that this project is worth pursuing. Additionally, as explained in further detail in the sections below, many of these "lost opportunities" are riddled with misinformation.

A. Emergency Water Supply

The first misleading statement is that Pacheco Dam would provide an "Emergency water supply developed for Delta export outages, drought periods, and other emergencies." In 2021, during a Pacheco Dam workshop, Valley Water staff's presentation contained a slide titled, "What Will Pacheco Not Do?" The list within that slide provides three statements.

1. No significant reduction in water shortage severity during prolonged droughts
2. No long-term drought supply
3. No new water supply

(April 14, 2021, PowerPoint attached here as Exhibit 1.) Thus, it is misleading, or at the very least inconsistent, to assert that Pacheco would provide water supplies during drought periods.

Additionally, the assertion that Pacheco Dam would provide relief during a long-term disruption of CVP and SWP exports is likely overstated. Valley Water obtains 45 percent of its water from CVP and SWP imports; the reservoir would not assist in obtaining water that could not be exported during such a time period.[4] Instead, this

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[3] https://www.valleywater.org/sites/default/files/Final%20NOP_IS_Pacheco.pdf, p. 1-13.

[4] In any case, improvements to the levees comprising the Freshwater Pathway in the Delta have reduced the period of potential outage to less than six months. (See, e.g., January 26, 2021, MWD Board Meeting, slide 17,

information points to the fact that Valley Water is over-reliant on outside water sources and should pursue more sustainable water sources within its jurisdiction.

B. Improved Drinking Water Quality

Next, the slides discuss improvement to water quality by avoiding the "use of algae-laden San Luis Reservoir water supplies during low point events[.]" However, most water stored in Pacheco would come from San Luis Reservoir. Therefore, it is unclear how there would be water quality benefits by importing water from San Luis to Pacheco, even before an algal bloom occurs.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") voiced concern about this fact in its DEIR comment. The EPA's comment stated, "[T]he EPA is concerned that cyanobacteria from the San Luis reservoir that is released into the Pacheco reservoir via the new conduit may further inoculate both the reservoir and releases to Pacheco Creek." (EPA Comment, p. 4.)[5] The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") recommended that "the EIR include a more detailed discussion of potential sources of HABs and include an analysis of their potential occurrence in the Proposed Project Area. Additionally, CDFW recommends that the EIR acknowledge there is a relationship between HABs and aquatic vegetation and that it is a knowledge gap of concern that may need to be addressed through future adaptive management." (CDFW Comment, p. 19.)[6]

Valley Water has failed to investigate whether the same water quality challenges as San Luis Reservoir would impact Pacheco Reservoir. Therefore, to assert to the public that there is a "lost opportunity" by avoiding San Luis Reservoir water is unsupported and likely erroneous.

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https://bda.mwdh2o.com/Board%20Archives/2021/01-January/Presentations/01262021%20Bay-Delta%206b%20Presentation.pdf.)

[5] The EPA's DEIR comment letter can be accessed at: https://stoppachecodam.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/22.02.15-EPA.pdf.

[6] CDFW's DEIR comment letter can be accessed at: https://stoppachecodam.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/22.2.11-DFW-Cmts-Pacheco.pdf.

C. Flood Protection

As discussed at length in the Coalition's April 3, 2023 letter,[7] the flood control benefits of the project are likely lower than what is described in the PowerPoint and misleads the public. There are several factors that would have contributed to whether or not the Town of Pajaro would have still flooded if the Pacheco Dam had been built in 2023. Only a small part of the Pacheco Creek watershed (North Fork and East Fork) could be held back by a dam, and it would likely only be completely empty in the very first year of operation. Additionally, as described in this letter, the dam's earliest operational date was 2029; therefore, any discussion about the dam's relevance during the Pajaro flood is irrelevant, speculative, and unsupported.

D. Existing Dam's Safety Problems

On April 6, 2018, DSOD restricted the operations of the North Fork Dam due to spillway deficiencies.[8] The PowerPoint states that repairs to the dam are a lost opportunity. However, Valley Water does not own or operate the North Fork Dam. Addressing the safety concerns at the dam is not Valley Water's responsibility; it is the responsibility of the Pacheco Pass Water District.[9]

E. 2023 Water Supply Case Study

The PowerPoint indicates a case study done for the 2023 water year. This case study was ostensibly conducted to show the benefits the dam could have provided during the 2023 water year. However, it is unclear what the study's assumptions were; given the lack of references supporting this case study, the information gleaned from it is, at best, conclusory and speculative.

The PowerPoint concludes that Pacheco Reservoir could have helped secure roughly 120,000 acre-feet of water. The reservoir is planned to hold 140,000 acre-feet; under Alternative A, the project would require a 55,000-acre-foot habitat storage reserve. Therefore, it is unlikely that there would be storage space available for 120,000 acre-feet. Additionally, the 2023 water year was an outlier. The PowerPoint states that the reservoir would have increased capture of natural flows of 42,900 acre-feet. However, the DEIR's modeling shows that the average inflow is 13,104 acre-feet a year, and between 1922 and 2003, it has only been above 40,000 acre-feet twice. (DEIR, Appendix Water Resources

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7 See Exhibit 2, April 3, 2023 Letter to VW Board regarding Flood.
8 See Exhibit 3, December 20, 2021 DSOD letter.
9 See Exhibit 3, December 20, 2021 DSOD letter.

and Fisheries Numerical Modeling, Attachment Pacheco Creek Steelhead Habitat Suitability Model, p. 2-4.) Therefore, these representations are misleading, and due to the reservoir's operations, the results provided would be extremely unlikely to occur in any given year.

II. Conclusion

Similar to much of the prior discussion regarding the Pacheco Dam, this PowerPoint misconstrues many of the facts surrounding this controversial project. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, the project's delay is a result of Valley Water's own deficient planning. Specifically, DSOD rejected the initial dam location presented to the California Water Commission in 2017 and rejected the hardfill dam design in 2021; several agencies—state and federal—have described extensive deficiencies in the DEIR that caused Valley Water to recirculate; and the Santa Clara County Superior Court determined that Valley Water failed to properly conduct environmental review for the geotechnical investigations. In addition, federal environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act has not begun. Thus, the so-called "lost opportunities" described in the PowerPoint are misleading and should be corrected for the public record.

Thank you for considering this information and please feel free to contact me (osha@semlawyers.com, 916-455-7300) with any questions.

Very truly yours,

SOLURI MESERVE
A Law Corporation

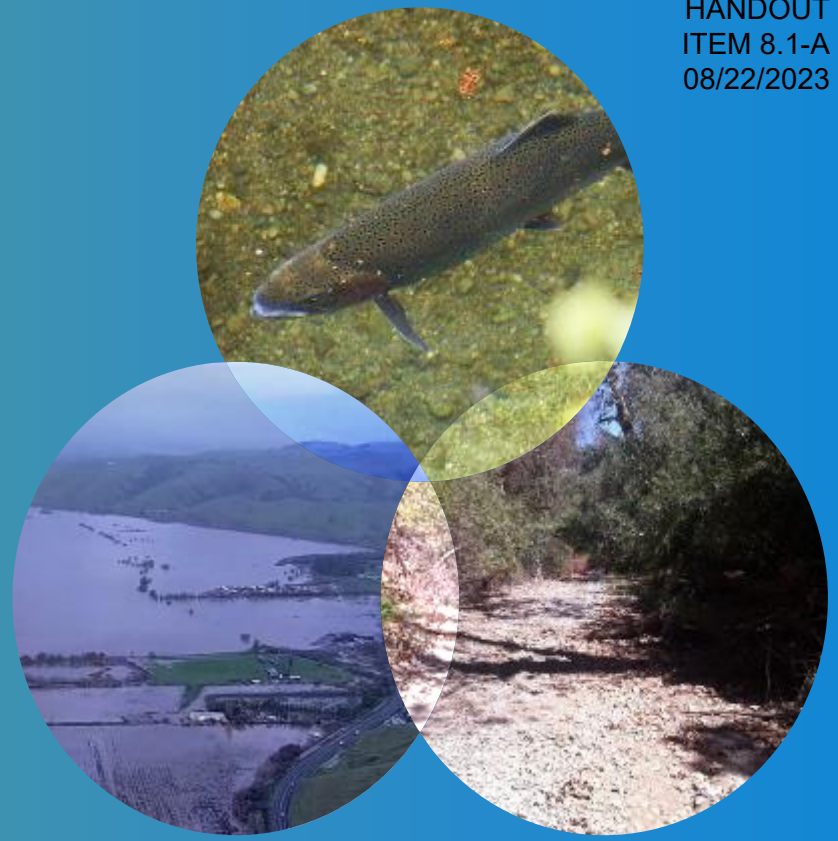
By: 
Osha R. Meserve

Attachments:

Exhibit 1, April 14, 2021, PowerPoint
Exhibit 2, April 3, 2023, Letter to VW Board regarding Flood
Exhibit 3, December 20, 2021, DSOD Letter

EXHIBIT 1

Unique Opportunity for Ecosystem Enhancement, Improved Water Supply Reliability, and Emergency Water Supply



Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Valley Water

Board Policy Decisions

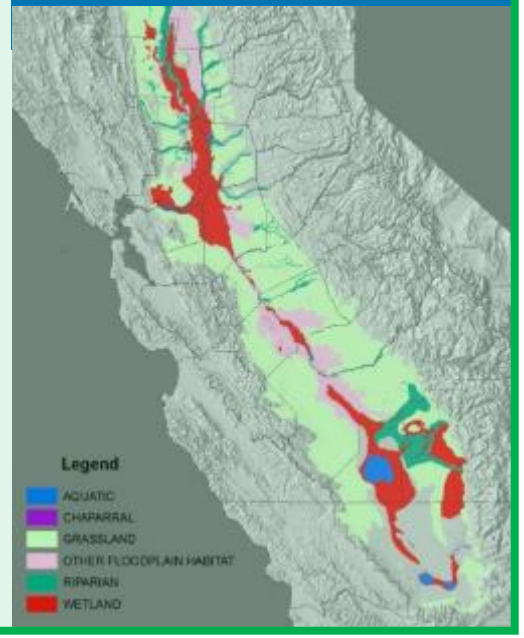
- Where does the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project fit into the Water Supply Master Plan?
- Are there predetermined “triggers” that require that the project be re-validated by the Board of Directors (time, partnership participation, cost, schedule, etc.)
- What level of Partnership participation should be assumed for financial planning purposes?

Pacheco Benefits for Valley Water (WSIP)

ENVIRONMENTAL

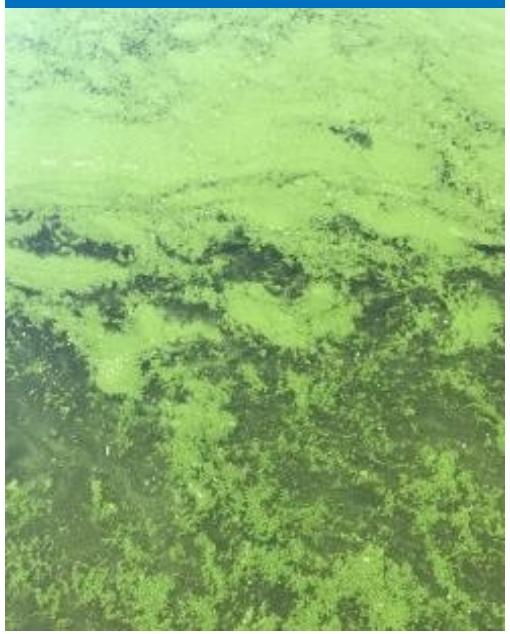
Enhance habitat for federally threatened steelhead

Enhance water supply in below- normal years to wildlife refuges in the Delta



Increase water supply reliability and emergency water supply

Resolve the water quality problem in supply sourced from San Luis Reservoir

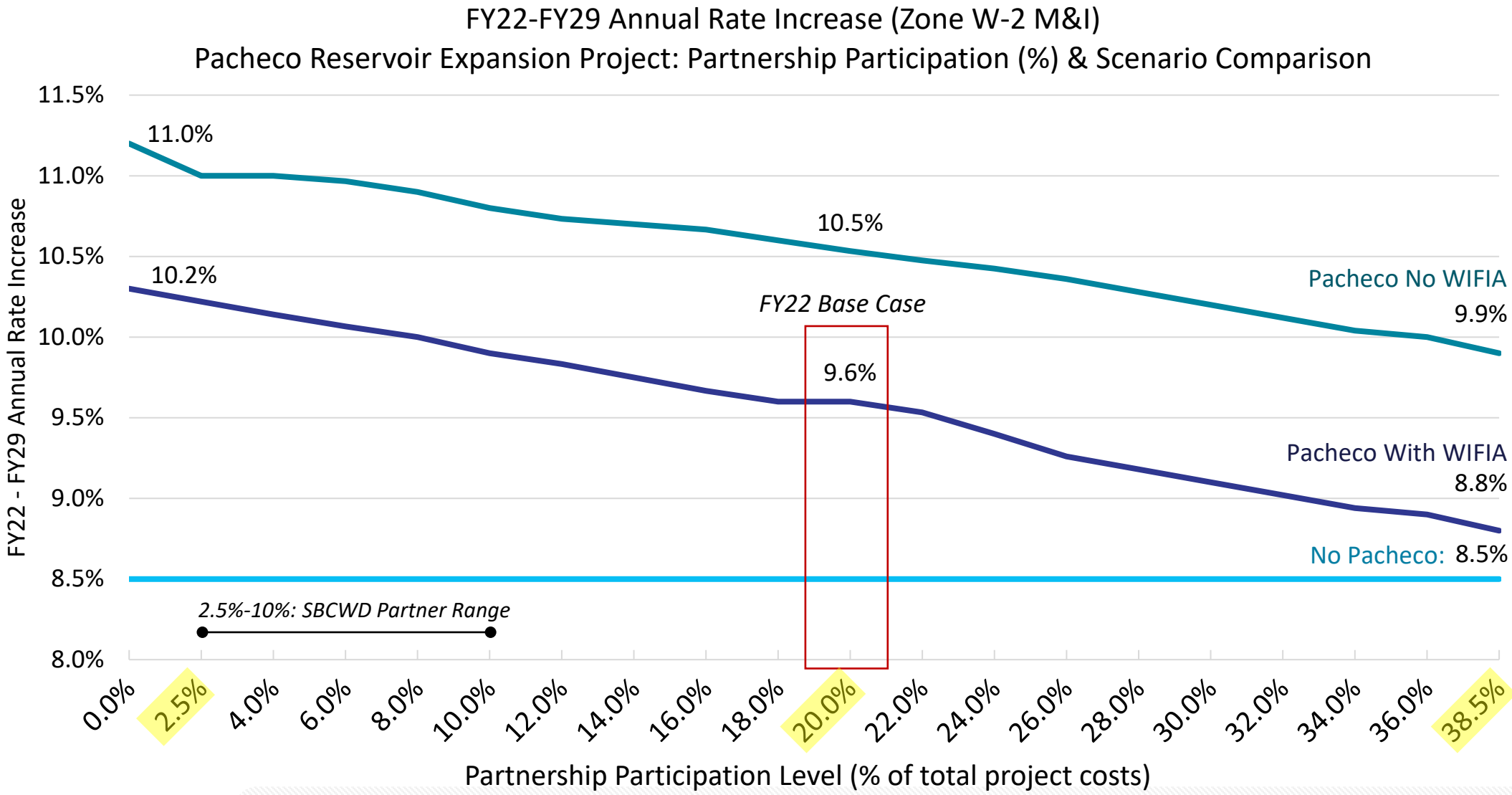


Reduce flooding along Pacheco Creek and to disadvantaged communities

Project Cost Estimate History

Year	CIP Estimate	Estimate with future inflation (CIP calc.)	
2017	$969,000,000	N/A	2015 dollars for WSIP Application
2019	$1,182,004,000	$1,345,000,000	No construction cost changes from WSIP estimate
2020	$2,203,321,000	$2,519,622,000	***NEW CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE***

Water Rate Impact

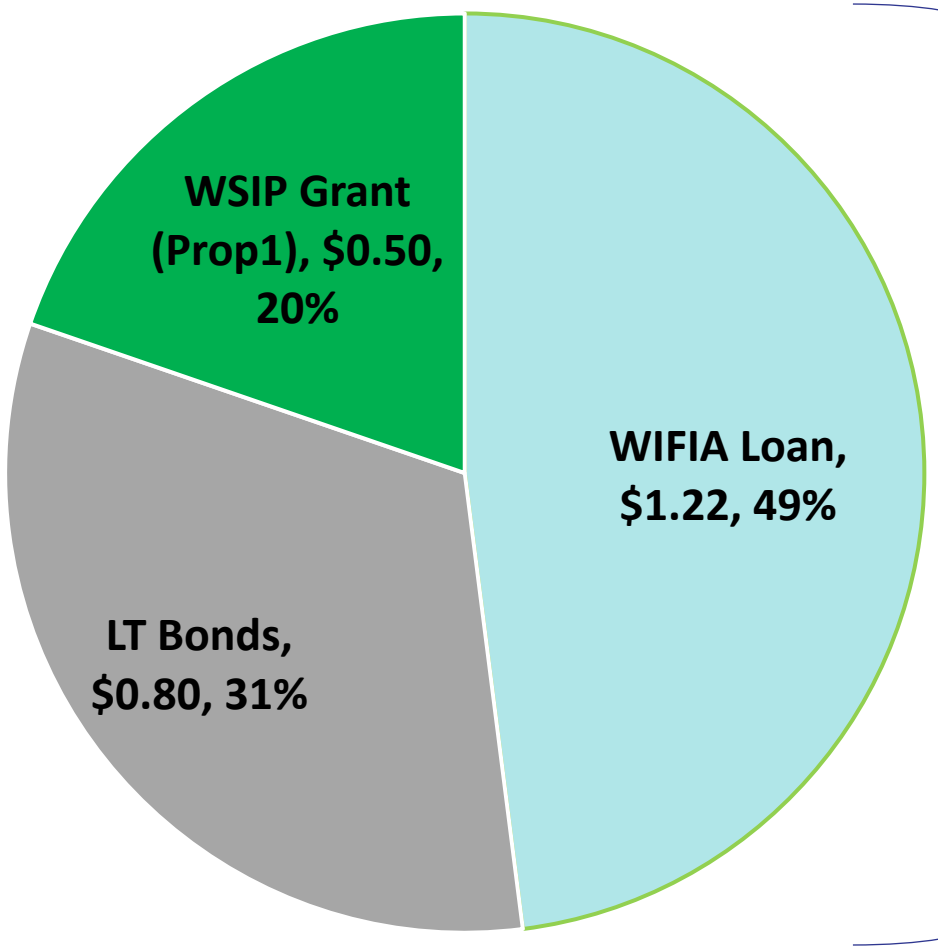


valleywater.org

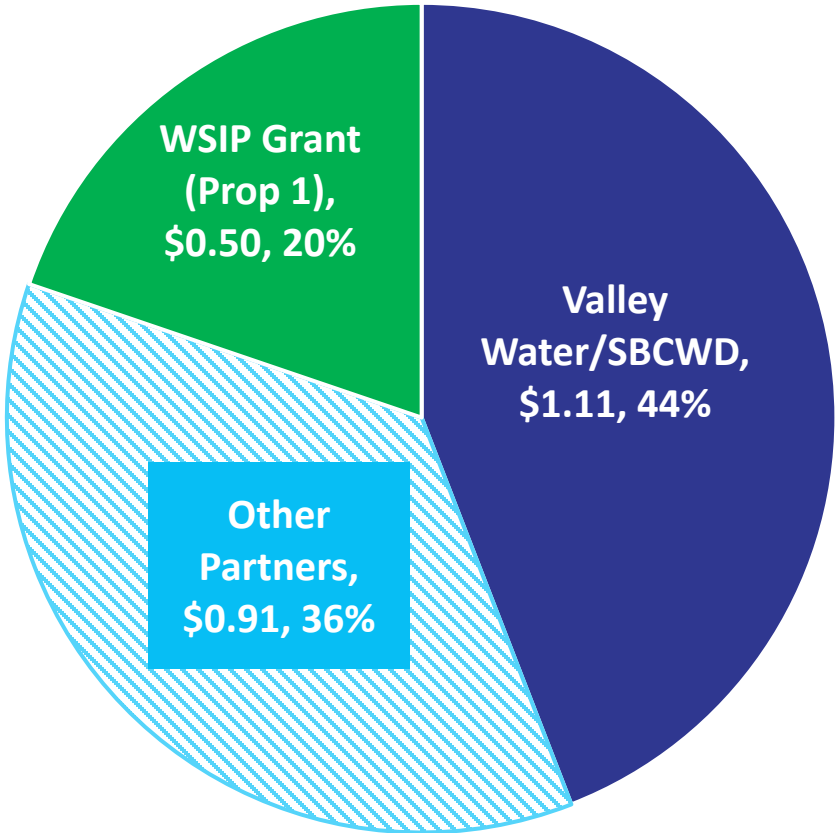
Financing Plan - Total Project Cost $2.5B

($BILLIONS)

Funding Sources



Allocation of Financing



Total Financing Costs (Principal + Interest): $3.8B*
Average Annual Debt Service: $81M*

* Preliminary financing estimates based on FY 2022 budgetary rates, subject to change pending timing, amount, and market conditions at time of debt issuance

Four Partnership Options

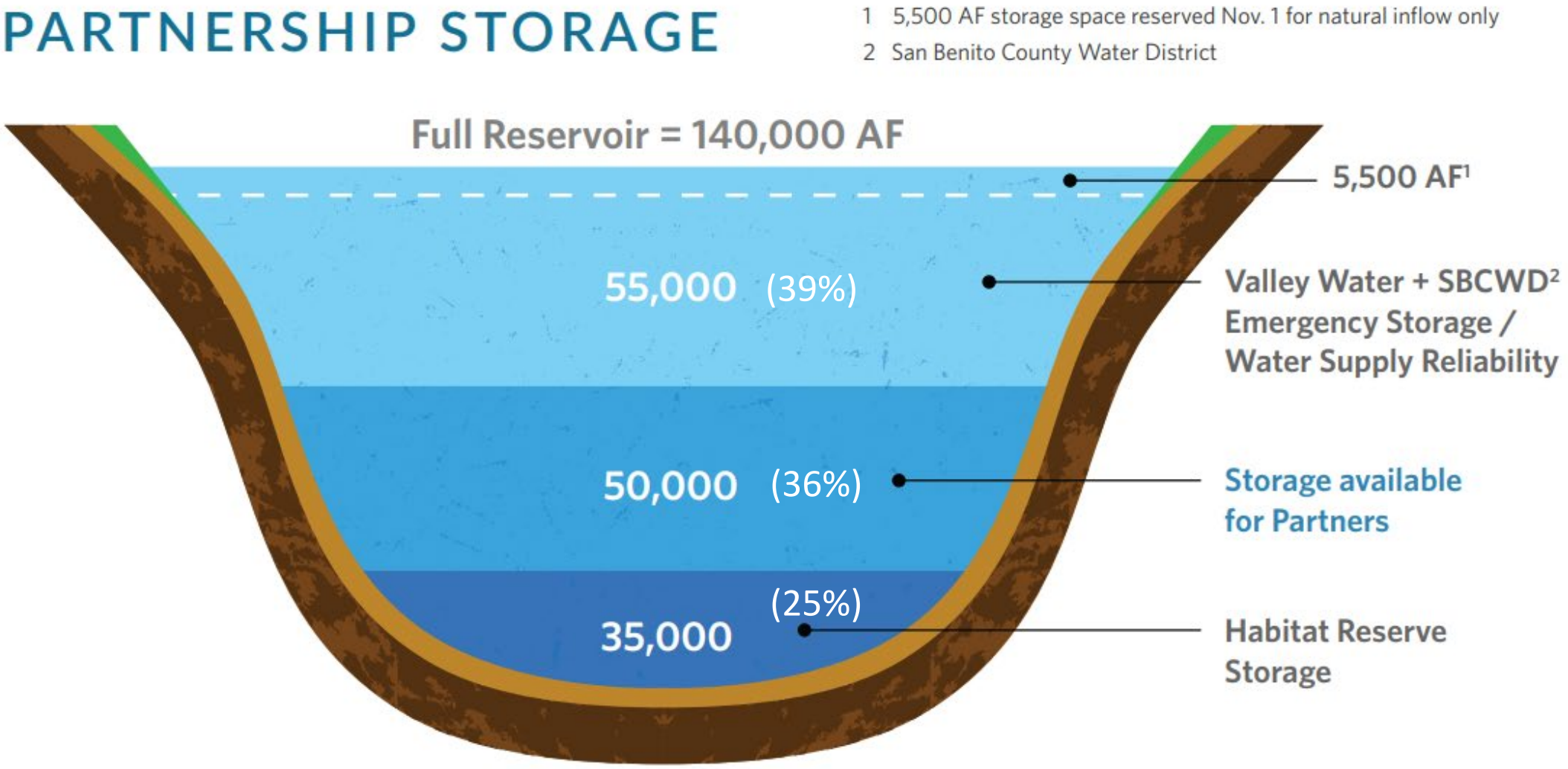
(1) Valley Water retains ownership – form partnerships via third party contractual rights

(2) Joint Exercise of Powers of Authority (JPA) – form partnerships through JPA membership

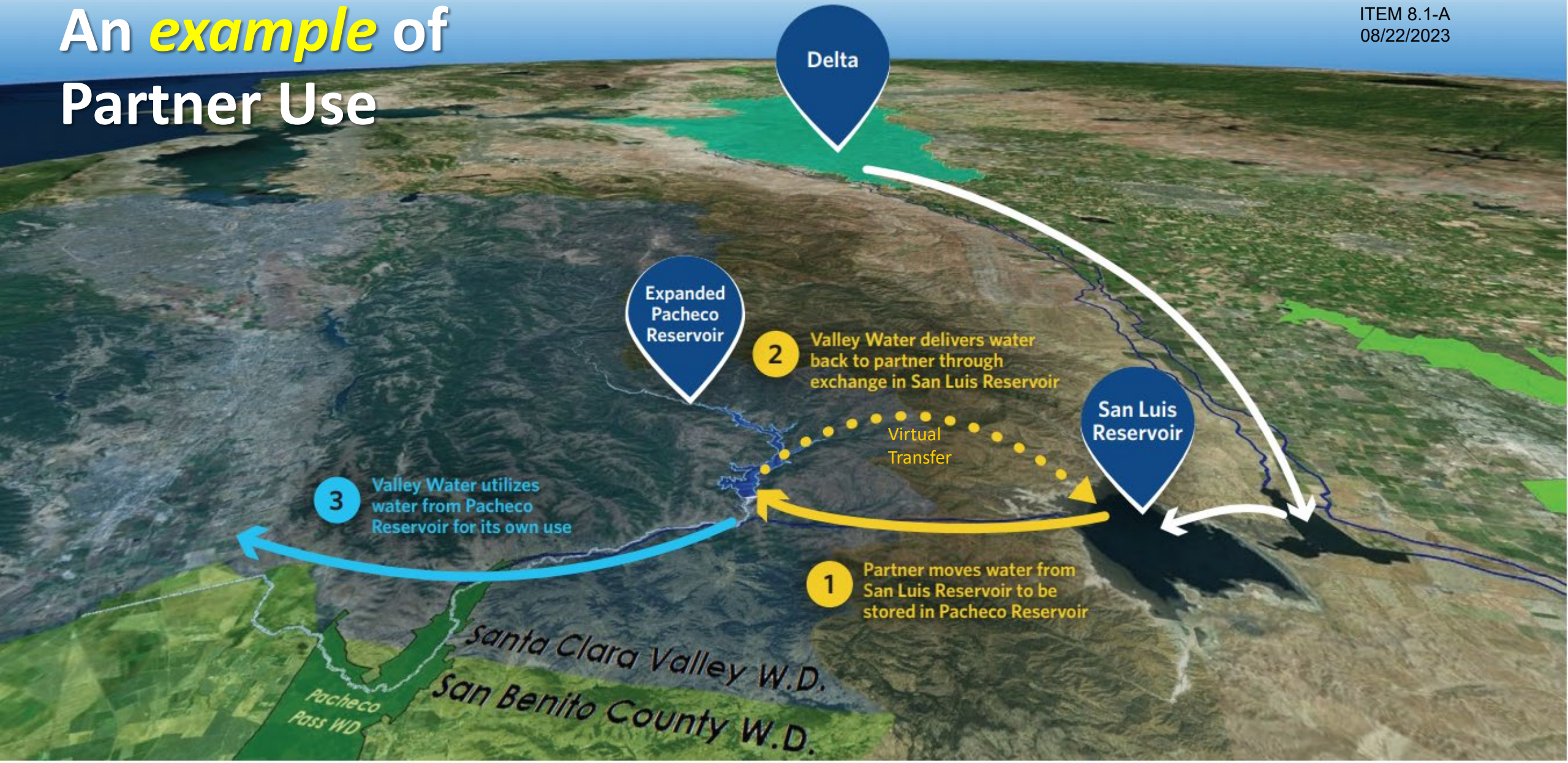
(3) Partnerships with Private Entities – form partnership with private entities to invest in capacity and sell their benefits to others

(4) Partnerships with Federal and/or State agencies

Possible Partnership Structure Example



An *example* of Partner Use



Example of Partner Costs

PARTNERSHIP COST

	Environmental Reserve (WSIP)[1]	Valley Water and San Benito County Water District	Partners	Total
Reservoir Reserved Volume *(acre-feet, AF)*	35,000 AF	55,000[2] AF	50,000 AF	140,000 AF
Capital Cost	$ 0.5 billion[2]	$ 1.1 billion[3]	$ 0.9 billion	$ 2.5 billion
Capital Cost *(% of Total)*	20%	44%	36%	100%
Annual O&M Cost *($million/year, 2030)*	-	$ 2.6 million/year	$ 2.4 million/year	$ 5.0 million/year

1 Water Storage Investment Program
2 Includes payment for emergency storage benefits (Valley Water)
3 Will increase if Partnership commitment is less than 50,000 acre-feet

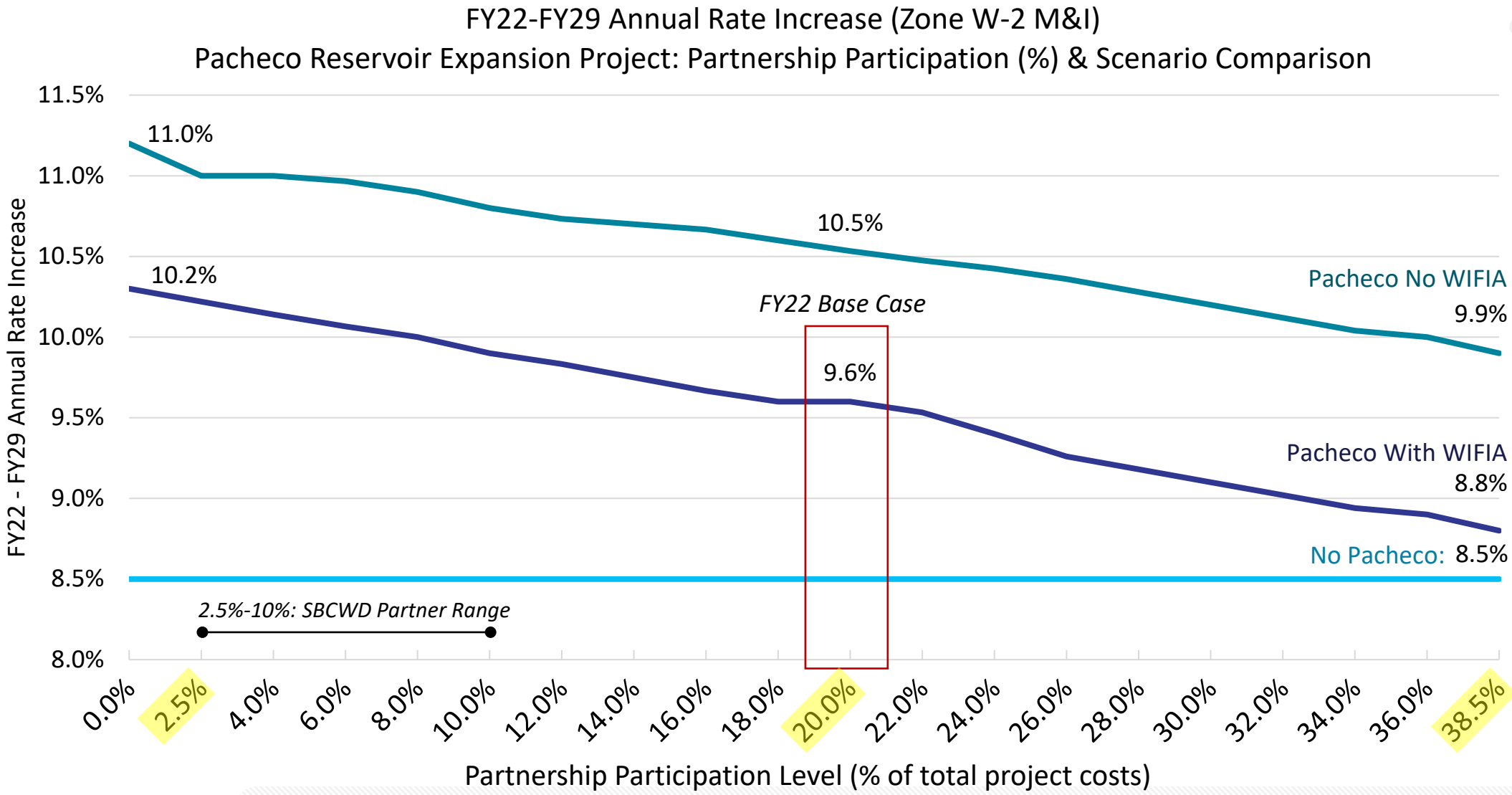
Approximate Storage Project Cost Comparison

	Pacheco Reservoir Expansion	Los Vaqueros Expansion and Transfer Bethany Pipeline[1]	Sisk Dam Raise[2]	McMullin 'Aquaterra' Groundwater Bank[3]	AVEK 'High Desert' Groundwater Bank[4]
Total Capital Cost	~$2,520 Million	~$951 Million	~$1,292 Million	~$344 Million	~$159 Million
Total Storage Capacity	134 TAF	115 TAF	130 TAF	800 TAF	280 TAF
$/AF of storage capacity	$18,800/AF	$8,300/AF	$9,900/AF	$400/AF	$600/AF

1. LVE Total Project Cost based on LVE Expansion Proforma Financial Model Version 5.0 Total Capital Cost, which includes the Transfer Bethany Pipeline cost.
2. Sisk Total Project Cost based on Sisk Dam final feasibility report dated December 2020, which was converted to an inflated cost projection using 4% inflation assumption
3. McMullin Total Project Cost based on 2020 preliminary estimate (to be revised) which was converted to an inflated cost projection using 4% inflation assumption
4. AVEK Total Project Cost based on Phase 1 Project Cost (similar size/scope), which was converted to an inflated cost projection using 4% inflation assumption

Project Schedule

Conclusion - Water Rate Impact



What Could Pacheco Do?

- Increases operational flexibility by increasing local storage capacity
- Banks existing imported water contract supplies for use during 1-2 years of a drought
- Provides year-round flow to creek downstream of reservoir

What Will Pacheco Not Do?

- No significant reduction in water shortage severity during prolonged droughts
- No long-term drought supply
- No new water supply

Discussion Summary

- Pacheco Reservoir Expansion is one of several WSIP projects moving forward with partnership potential
- Unamortized capital cost of reservoir storage is between $18K-$20K/AF
- Annual increase in North County Zone W-2 M&I groundwater charge ranges from 8.5%-11% to account for Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Board Policy Decisions

- Does it make sense to continue to include the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project in the Water Supply Master Plan?
- Are there predetermined “triggers” that require that the project be re-validated by the Board of Directors (time, partnership participation, cost, schedule, etc.)
- What level of Partnership participation should be assumed for financial planning purposes?

QUESTIONS

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EXHIBIT 2

SOLURI MESERVE
a law corporation

tel: 916.455.7300 · fax: 916.244.7300
510 8th Street · Sacramento, CA 95814

April 3, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL
(clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org; board@valleywater.org)

Chair Varela and Board Members
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5700 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, California 95123

RE: Statements Made During the March 16, 2023, Board of Directors Special Meeting

Dear Chair Varela and Board Members:

This firm represents Stop the Pacheco Dam Project Coalition, an unincorporated association working with conservation and other groups to protect Santa Clara County's ratepayers and the environment, as well as working ranchlands, from the environmentally destructive, high-cost, and high-risk Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project ("Pacheco Dam"). This letter seeks to correct the record regarding statements made during the March 16, 2023, special meeting that mischaracterized potential flood benefits of a new Pacheco Dam.

Specifically, near the end of the March 16, 2023 Special Meeting, Chair Varela referred to the tragedy of flooding that occurred in early March in the town of Pajaro to pitch unsubstantiated benefits of the Pacheco Dam. The Chair stated that "In [the Army Corps of Engineers'] words the benefit doesn't calculate for a poverty-stricken community to expedite the funding and the process to correct the Pajaro River breach, which has occurred over the past 20 years or 30 years every 5 to 10 years. So had the Pacheco Reservoir been built say maybe 5, 10, 15 years ago the probability, the probability of that flood occurring downstream would not have happened."[1] As explained below, this claim is unsupported by the facts and was misleading to the public.

[1] See March 16, 2023, Meeting Recording, 3:44:15 to 3:45:00, available at: https://scvwd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=2078.

Pajaro River Levee Was Not Overtopped, It Failed

First, the levee that failed on March 11, 2023 is located at the very bottom of the entire 1,300 square mile Pajaro River watershed. There are several creeks, streams, and a separate river that ultimately merge to become the Pajaro River prior to reaching the town of Pajaro. Further, the Pajaro River did not overtop the levee at the town of Pajaro; the levee failed catastrophically.[2] Thus, the flooding was generally not driven by the volume of flow, but was the result of a failure to undertake levee repair and maintenance to ensure a minimum level of flood protection.

According to Mercury News reporting, the Pajaro River only reached a level of 29.2 feet on March 11th. This is more than three feet lower than the documented flood stage, which could have caused the levee to be overtopped.[3] Thus, even if a new Pacheco Dam could have provided some flood benefit in this scenario, it is false and irresponsible to suggest that the town would not have flooded if the new dam was built.

In addition, high streamflow events in the lower section of Pacheco Creek (well below the proposed new dam), are not directly related to flood conditions near the town of Pajaro. For instance, on January 9, 2023, the Pacheco Creek streamflow at the Dunneville gage (well downstream of the proposed Pacheco Dam) reached 15,700 cfs.[4] On March 10th, that number only reached 8,910 cfs.[5] The Pajaro River gauge at

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[2] On March 12, 2023, the LA Times reported that "The levee failed around midnight. The failure is approximately 300 feet wide and workers are bringing in rocks and other materials to stabilize the breach before the next storm arrives." This article is available at: https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-03-12/central-coast-and-northern-california-prepare-for-the-next-storm.

[3] The updated March 27, 2023, article from Mercury News compares the height of the river during the four historic floods that overtopped the levee and discusses the recent levee failure. This article is available at: https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/03/26/monterey-spent-one-fifth-what-santa-cruz-did-on-pajaro-river-flood-control-did-that-contribute-to-catastrophic-levee-break/

[4] Stream gauge information for this date and location can be accessed at: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11153000/#parameterCode=00060&startDT=2023-01-01&endDT=2023-01-10.

[5] Stream gauge information for this date and location can be accessed at: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11153000/#parameterCode=00060&startDT=2023-03-09&endDT=2023-03-15.

Chittenden showed 11,100 cfs on January 11th[6] and 11,900 cfs on March 11th.[7] This data shows the lack of a direct correlation between flows in even the lower portion of Pacheco Creek and the flows in the Pajaro River. While the flows in Pacheco Creek on January 9th were nearly double those on March 11th, the flows in the Pajaro River only increased by seven percent. Additionally, there was no flooding in the town of Pajaro during the January high flow event.

The Pajaro River Watershed Is Massive and the Pacheco Dam Area Is Small

Second, the relative size of the Pajaro watershed above the proposed dam is less than one percent of the entire Pajaro watershed. While the watershed above the proposed new Pacheco Dam is approximately 66 square miles in area, the Pajaro watershed is approximately 1,300 square miles. That is .05 percent. Thus, Pacheco Dam (if there was capacity) could likely only capture less than 1 percent of the stormwater in the Pajaro watershed. If the new dam had been in place, it would likely have only captured a small fraction of the rainfall from the storm.

Due to the small area that the Pacheco Dam could potentially control, in 2018, the California Water Commission ("Commission") determined that any flood benefits of a new dam would be incidental. The California Water Storage Investment Program ("WSIP") Technical Review explained that:

> The Santa Clara Valley Water District could not monetize the flood benefits for Pacheco Dam because there is limited residential development in the downstream area of the dam. The most significant development is located further downstream in the city of Watsonville and the town of Pajaro. The proposed dam on the North Fork Pacheco Creek will control only a small portion of the watershed above the towns of Pajaro and Watsonville; the quantifiable flood benefits would be more localized downstream and near the dam.[8]

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[6] Stream gauge information for this date and location can be accessed at: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11159000/#parameterCode=00060&startDT=2023-01-05&endDT=2023-01-12.

[7] Stream gauge information for this date and location can be accessed at: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/11159000/#parameterCode=00060&startDT=2023-03-06&endDT=2023-03-13.

[8] WSIP Technical Review, May 25, 2018, p. 2 of 9, available at: https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Documents/2018/WSIP/TechReview/Pacheco_TechReview.pdf.

Similar to the WSIP determination of no cognizable flood benefits, the Army Corps determined that that upper watershed storage projects were not recommended for flood control on the Pajaro River in 1994 because it "Does not meet project objectives: limited increase in flood risk management. Technically infeasible. Not Economically Justified."[9] The Army Corps evaluated the diversion of flood flows into upper basin reservoirs again in 2001 and determined that approach as: "Only addresses limited volumes of water; impractical engineering; economically infeasible."[10] Therefore, the flood protection benefits of a larger dam at the North Fork Pacheco Creek are not substantiated and should not be provided to the public as a reason to construct the Pacheco Dam.

In Wet Years the Dam May Not Provide Any Relief

During Valley Water's March 16th meeting, Director Santos asked whether having the Pacheco Dam in place would have lessened the flood impact and likely would not flood at all? Staff stated that there could be some incidental flood protection benefits, but it would ultimately depend on the operation of the reservoir. "In the situation that we are in right now coming off three consecutive dry years there would be more space available to attenuate flows so it could have a significant impact in decreasing downstream flooding."[11] As explained above, the very damaging flooding of the town of Pajaro was not caused primarily by high flows, but by the failure of a levee that had not been properly maintained to meet minimum flood protection standards.

As staff noted, there have been three consecutive dry years. Therefore, theoretically, there might be room in a new reservoir to store water, which could potentially reduce flows if the reservoir had not yet filled. This statement, however, would likely not be valid during consecutive wet years when there is no or limited additional storage available.

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[9] Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties California (2019), App. A, p. 5. The entire Flood Risk Management document including appendices can be accessed at: https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-and-Programs/Current-Projects/Pajaro-River-I/.

[10] Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties California (2019), App. A, p. 8.

[11] March 16, 2023, Meeting Recording, at 44:10:30, available at: https://scvwd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=2078.

Conclusion

Several statements made during the March 16th special board meeting were inaccurate and misleading. There has been no information provided to the public to suggest that a new Pacheco Dam would have anything more than incidental flood benefits, and it is unlikely that a new dam would have kept the Town of Pajaro from flooding. The use of this disaster as a means to promote the new dam project was inappropriate and misleading.

Thank you for considering this information and please feel free to contact me (osha@semlawyers.com, 916-455-7300) with any questions.

Very truly yours,

SOLURI MESERVE
A Law Corporation

By: 
Osha R. Meserve

EXHIBIT 3

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
GAVIN NEWSOM, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791

December 20, 2021

Mr. Steve Lindsay, President
Pacheco Pass Water District
Post Office Box 1382
Hollister, California 95023

North Fork Dam, No. 77
Santa Clara County

Dear Mr. Lindsay:

This is to inform the Pacheco Pass Water District (District) that the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has completed an independent assessment of the spillway at North Fork Dam consisting of a file review and visual inspection. DSOD conducted this review given the risk posed by the unmitigated failure of a section of the left spillway wall and the urgent need to evaluate the remainder of the structure for additional deficiencies. The left wall section failed in January 2017 and has not been mitigated despite DSOD's April 5, 2017 and April 6, 2018 letters ordering its repair.

Based on DSOD's review and inspection, the spillway is vulnerable to failure during future storms or landslide events due to its lack of maintenance, design deficiencies, and history of failures. Therefore, we conclude that the spillway must be replaced with one meeting modern design standards. This new spillway must be completed by December 31, 2032, which will allow for the District to budget and secure the necessary funding for the design and construction.

DSOD is aware that the District is working to secure external funding to construct a partial-height wall, which we approved in a May 7, 2020 letter as an interim repair to the failed left wall section. We also understand the District expects to receive the external funding and are on track to complete the interim repairs by July 2023. Please keep DSOD apprised on construction schedules. The completion of the interim repairs does not change the District's obligation to construct a new spillway by December 31, 2032.

No earthwork activities shall proceed along and upslope of the left spillway walls without DSOD review and approval. Such work poses a risk of reactivating historic landslides in the left hillslope that could block the spillway [redacted]

Due to the poor condition of the spillway at North Fork Dam, the District must continue to comply with the reservoir restriction imposed in our April 6, 2018 letter, which requires the upstream and downstream outlet controls to remain in the fully open position to maximize releases and maintain the lowest possible water surface elevation. In addition, the District must perform daily inspections if the spillway is in use due to a storm event, and any change in conditions must be reported to DSOD immediately.

In the interest of dam safety, DSOD is committed to working closely with the District toward addressing the spillway deficiency at North Fork Dam. If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Area Engineer Austin Roundtree at (916) 565-7822 or Regional Engineer Melissa Collord at (916) 565-7820.

Sincerely,

Shawn Jones for

Sharon K. Tapia, P.E.
Division Manager
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Mr. Casey Meredith, Chief
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