

## Michele King

---

**From:** Dashiell Leeds <dashiell.leeds@sierraclub.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2023 10:52 AM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors  
**Cc:** James Eggers; Mike Ferreira; Gladwyn D'Souza; Katja Irvin; Molly Culton  
**Subject:** SCLP + SC CA letter to VW re: Re: August 22, 2023 Board Agenda Item 8.1  
**Attachments:** Aug 21, 2023 SCLP SC CA letter to VW Board.pdf

**\*\*\* This email originated from outside of Valley Water. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*\***

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

Sierra Club California and the Loma Prieta Chapter's Water Committee advocate for the protection of natural ecosystems and sustainable water supplies. We thank staff for putting together a detailed schedule for the Pacheco Reservoir project which will be very helpful for tracking this project as long as it keeps moving forward.

For the record, the Sierra Club supports all the comments submitted by Soluri Meserve on August 16, 2023. The Lost Opportunity Costs analysis raises many questions. Please read the attached letter for our full list of comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Katja Irvin  
Water Committee Co-Chair  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Molly Culton  
Chapter Organizing Manager  
Sierra Club California

Email sent from account of:  
Dashiell Leeds  
Conservation Coordinator  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

**THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**



**SIERRA CLUB**  
LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

August 21, 2023  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

Re: August 22, 2023 Board Agenda Item 8.1, Receive Information on the Pacheco Reservoir Project

Dear Valley Water Board of Directors,

Sierra Club California and the Loma Prieta Chapter's Water Committee advocate for the protection of natural ecosystems and sustainable water supplies. We thank staff for putting together a detailed schedule for the Pacheco Reservoir project which will be very helpful for tracking this project as long as it keeps moving forward.

For the record, the Sierra Club supports all the comments submitted by Soluri Meserve on August 16, 2023. The Lost Opportunity Costs analysis raises many questions. Here are a few of our concerns for now.

1. It seems unusual to do additional analysis to justify a project midstream. The benefits of this project for Valley Water and Santa Clara County are water supply benefits and therefore should be justified through the Water Supply Master Plan. Aside from emergency water supply, the lost opportunities largely provide benefits outside of Santa Clara County and do not benefit ratepayers or taxpayers.
2. The analysis is completely opaque and the results are questionable, especially the \$1.7 billion benefit for Steelhead. There is clearly a risk that the additional flows provided by this project will not substantially increase the population of Steelhead in the Pajaro River or in Pacheco Creek. Valley Water does not have a good track record of increasing Steelhead populations in other watersheds, even 20 years after a settlement agreement was signed to do so. We would like to see how this was evaluated.
3. If the District is going to rely on this analysis to justify continuing with this project, the analysis needs to be documented and made available for review and comment. Valley Water should welcome independent input from technical experts about the assumptions, data, models, etc. used to calculate opportunity costs.
4. Lastly, there are alternatives for all the opportunities discussed. For example, Los Vaqueros Reservoir or San Luis Reservoir could alternatively be used for emergency supplies. What is needed is an alternatives analysis to provide the costs vs. benefits and the risks for the Pacheco Reservoir compared to the alternatives.

For the sake of transparency, please ask staff and consultants to document the Lost Opportunity Costs analysis and invite anyone who commented on the Pacheco Reservoir DEIR to review and provide feedback. Otherwise, the numbers presented in the staff report are not credible.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katja Irvin".

Katja Irvin  
Water Committee Co-Chair  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Culton".

Molly Culton  
Chapter Organizing Manager  
Sierra Club California