

Michele King

From: Katja Irvin <katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 9:50 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: John Varela; Linda LeZotte; Tony Estremera; Richard Santos; Nai Hsueh; Barbara Keegan; Gary Kremen; Kyle Jones; 'Mike Ferreira'
Subject: July 25, 2017 Item 5.1, Proposition 1 funding application for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project
Attachments: Pacheco Reservoir Sierra Club Letter 7-25-17.pdf

Dear Clerk of the Board and Board of Directors,

From its inception the Sierra Club has considered the protection of the natural environment to be a major policy priority. In that vein, we request to be involved in stakeholder outreach for the Pacheco Reservoir Replacement Project.

Please find the Sierra Club's initial comment letter on Pacheco Reservoir attached. We plan to be involved in this reservoir replacement project, and we would prefer to work with the District in the spirit of dialog.

Best Regards,

Katja Irvin
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
Water Committee Chair

Kyle Jones
Sierra Club California
Legislative Advocate



Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
Serving San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito Counties
Protecting Our Planet Since 1933

3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite 204
Palo Alto, CA 94303

July 24, 2017

Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

RE: July 25, 2017 Item 5.1, Proposition 1 funding application for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Dear Chair Varela and Members of the Board,

From its inception the Sierra Club has considered the protection of the natural environment to be a major policy priority. In that vein, we request to be involved in stakeholder outreach for the Pacheco Reservoir Replacement Project.

The Sierra Club is always concerned when new on-stream water impoundments are proposed in California. In addition, we are disappointed that this project is being pushed forward in such an unusual manner – applying for funding and purchasing land before feasibility studies have been completed. Furthermore, we are disappointed there has been no outreach to environmental stakeholders prior to this funding application.

There are many concerns that could impact the feasibility of this project.

- Environmental concerns include impact on species and habitat and water quality issues when Delta water is stored along this local watershed that ultimately flows to the Monterey Bay.
- It seems important to complete a comprehensive cost vs. benefit analysis before moving forward with implementation phase activities.
- Alternatives need to be considered, including the alternative scenarios in the Water Supply Master Plan. In particular, we think that developing Coyote Valley for groundwater storage would be more cost-effective, provide more environmental benefits, and have fewer environmental impacts than this dam project.
- This project should be evaluated through the lens of the One Water Plan, the District's most innovative planning effort, which is currently underway.

For these reasons, we think the District should return to a more standard approach for large new projects, including robust stakeholder involvement. We plan to be involved in this reservoir replacement project, and we would prefer to work with the District in the spirit of dialog.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katja Irvin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katja Irvin, Chair
Loma Prieta Chapter Water Committee

Cc:

Kyle Jones, Sierra Club California, Policy Advocate

Mike Ferreira, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, Conservation Committee Chair

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