

Michele King

Subject: FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

From: system-generated@valleywater.org <system-generated@valleywater.org>

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Board Meeting Date

2021-04-14

Agenda Item Number

2.1

I would like to

No Position--Comment Only

Comment Form

The Board should be concerned that so little solid information is available to make decisions about continuing to fund the 140,000-acre-foot Pacheco Reservoir project. The following major considerations should be of concern.

1. Staff is going ahead with an EIR for a project that has not yet completed a draft feasibility study or any level of design documents. No new technical documents have been made publicly available since the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study completed in 2017. EIRs are normally initiated when a project is further along in the design process.
2. This project continues to move forward without any updated cost-benefit analysis since the Water Supply Master Plan was approved in 2019. Since 2019 the \$900 million cost estimate for the project has almost tripled (and will continue to rise), so the \$2000 cost per acre-foot yield from the project cited in the Master Plan could easily be \$6000 per acre-foot

when new cost-benefit information is provided at the end of the year. Staff's presentation says the unamortized capital cost of reservoir storage is between \$18,000 to \$20,000 per acre-foot. That is far more expensive than any other source of water.

3. Groundwater production charge increases are likely to be on the high-end (11% per year) on account of this project.

4. Staff's public opinion survey indicated that Pacheco Reservoir is the least favored way to improve water supply reliability and the cost of the project is a major concern for members of the public.

5. Given the history of the Pacheco Reservoir project, odds are there will be two significant mid-year budget adjustments between now and January 2022 to increase funding for this project. The rush to meet the January 2022 deadline could also put pressure on staff resources and impact other projects.

6. Staff's presentation says the project will provide no new water supply. How does this relate to the average annual yield of 6,000 acre-feet documented in the Water Supply Master Plan? This seems contradictory and deserves a better explanation to prevent any confusion about the actual benefits of the project.