

July 28, 2016

California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear California Water Commission Members:

The Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board, representing 15 incorporated cities and the County of Fresno, would like to voice our strong support for the proposal to build Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir in Fresno and Madera counties. Temperance Flat has been identified as being among the best locations for new multi-objective surface storage in California.

Natural drought conditions over the past few years have been particularly difficult on the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. Regulatory curtailments of water supplies have simply been devastating to valley agriculture and much of our economy. At the same time, this lack of surface water led to understandable overutilization and overdraft of the valley's greatest reserve supply — groundwater. As a consequence, water tables have plummeted; wells by the thousands have dried up and failed, demonstrating repeatedly the absolute necessity of developing additional surface water storage to capture high flows in big storm events and water years, putting the stored water to beneficial use. This includes capturing and storing excess Sierra runoff to enable its use for groundwater recharge in the lengthy process required to convey and percolate water for such purposes.

We understand that as a Commission you will consider the public benefits provided by each proposed project in granting Proposition 1 funds. The San Joaquin Valley Caucus has forwarded a list to you of those benefits on the river, underground, in the Valley and elsewhere in California. We concur with and support the list and reinforce the point that Temperance Flat can provide multiple benefits, both public and non-public, significantly increasing water storage on the San Joaquin River. With an annual average inflow of about 1.8 million acre-feet, Millerton Lake (capacity 520,500 acre-feet, but with "active" available storage above "dead pool" of just 385,000 acre-feet) is currently unable to store water in successive years. Temperance Flat would create additional capacity of some 1.3 million acre-feet. It would be managed to provide a broad array of public benefits, including ecosystem restoration, flood control, recreation, water quality, and emergency water supply, in combination with non-public benefits water supply and hydropower benefits.

The Bureau of Reclamation and the new San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority — which represents stakeholders in Fresno, Merced, Tulare, Madera and Kings counties — recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding under which these project benefits and related project information will be detailed for your consideration when a formal application for project funding under Section 8 of Proposition 1 (the "Water Bond") is filed with the Commission. The final feasibility study is expected to be released soon.

Although the Temperance Flat application remains in formative stages, Fresno COG believes it is of great importance to express our support of the application on behalf of our nearly one million San Joaquin Valley constituents. Temperance Flat would provide important water supply reliability benefits to a region in great need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amarpreet Dhaliwal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a distinct 'D'.

Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Policy Board Chair
Fresno Council of Governments