

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

California is currently facing another devastatingly dry water year. As the House drafts the upcoming infrastructure bill, we believe it is critical to include an important water supply and delivery project that could provide much needed water security to many agencies in northern California. We support including funding for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (LVE) in the infrastructure package. LVE is a model project that enjoys broad, bipartisan support of a diverse set of stakeholders, including urban water agencies, the business community, waterfowl organizations, State and Central Valley Project contractors, and national conservation groups. The infrastructure package provides a unique opportunity for Congress to provide the federal investment needed to satisfy the cost sharing requirements that will unlock an even larger investment by the State of California in this project.

The LVE Project includes the construction of water storage and water conveyance facilities. This project provides federal benefits including dedicated water supplies to secure "Incremental Level 4" refuge water supplies to meet the needs of federal, state, and privately managed refuges and wetland areas. LVE also increases water supply reliability various municipal and industrial water providers and irrigation districts.

Last year, after decades of studies, Congress provided construction funds to begin building LVE. The Bureau of Reclamation has completed the necessary environmental reviews and issued the Final Federal Feasibility Report in August 2020. The report recommended full project implementation and the maximum 25% federal investment authorized under the WIIN Act or \$223 million. According to the LVE Program Manager, the Contra Costa Water District, securing the remainder of authorized federal funding to fully implement the LVE Project in the near term will enable the final award of \$470 million in state Proposition 1 funding through the California Water Commission. A total of \$211 million remains to be appropriated to capture the full 25% federal cost-share. Without this federal funding commitment, full Proposition 1 funding cannot be secured.

We respectfully ask that you give the Phase 2 Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project the highest level of funding support in the infrastructure bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



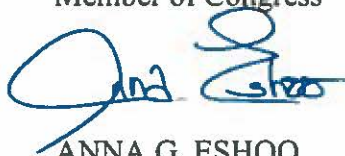
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