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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Washington, DC 20515-0509

July 12, 2017

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Proposition 1 Application

Dear Chair Quintero:

I am writing to express my support for the Water Supply Investment Program funding application submitted for Proposition 1 funding for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project.

California needs more storage to prepare for times of drought and flood emergencies. In 2014, California voters approved \$2.7 billion in funding for water storage projects as part of Proposition 1. The recent drought followed by one of the wettest years on record only further highlighted the state-wide need for more storage to prepare for drought and flood emergencies.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir in Brentwood, with fully screened Delta intakes, that can be expanded to provide multiple public benefits that qualify for Proposition 1 funding. Public benefits of this project include: supply for South-of-Delta wildlife refuges; drought and emergency preparedness; statewide integration potential; protection of water quality; and recreation enhancement. The reservoir is currently owned and operated by Contra Costa Water District. Regional partners have now evaluated the expansion for public benefits and benefits for their own agencies.

Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir is an essential project that embodies what is needed long-term for California. Expanding an existing facility to extend operational flexibility for other agencies, while providing significant public benefits to the environment is a wise use of local ratepayer and state taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress