



April 24, 2018

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

SUBJECT: Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program: Public Benefits Ratios

Dear Members:

I write on behalf of the East Bay Leadership Council (EBLC) to provide comments on the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Public Benefit Ratio (PBR) Assessment, dated April 20, 2018. The EBLC has previously supported passage of Proposition 1 and particularly supported the applications for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (Los Vaqueros) by the Contra Costa Water District and the Sites Project (Sites) by the Sites Project Authority.

The EBLC is a public policy organization advocating on behalf of 200 employers in Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley region to promote economic vitality and a high quality of life.

We are aware of the results of PBR Assessment after the appeal period and note with satisfaction that the Los Vaqueros Project now has a PBR of 1.77, indicating more public benefits than the allocated cost. It is tied for the highest ratio following staff review. Sites now has a PBR of 0.67, the 6th highest of the 11 applicants. We are concerned about the variability of the PBRs and how that variability impacts upon the Commission's decisions to award funding for the various projects. Only two projects have received a PBR of greater than one. This result is disturbing, and it is unclear to what extent PBR scores of these projects reflect actual public costs and benefits or are the result of counterproductive variability within the evaluation process.

Project proponents are proceeding with required engineering, environmental, and financial analyses which will inform project sharing/allocation decisions with various partners. The prospective regional partnerships are critical, as is the partnership with the State through its Proposition 1 funding support. The Commission's project evaluation process should continue as scheduled so that all proponents can determine project viability and progress with project implementation so that the water and public benefits can be realized. We respectfully request that the Commission diligently proceed with these very important decisions without delay.

Sincerely,

Kristin Connelly
President & CEO

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