

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814



Teresa Alvarado, Chair
CA Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Via Email

Dear Chair Alvarado:

We, the undersigned are writing, to you and the California Water Commission (CWC) to request the commission immediately act to ensure that water storage projects in the Central Valley are prioritized as you assess how to proceed with the reallocation of funds from the Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program. We support the original allocation of these funds for the Temperance Flat Storage Project, however, with the CWC now acting to revert those funds and to allocate them for other storage projects, we urge the CWC to use these funds for other urgently needed water storage projects in the Central Valley Region.

As you know, Proposition 1 on the November 2014 Ballot enacted into law, by voter approval, Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 79750) of the Water Code which continuously appropriated \$2.7 billion for public benefits associated with water storage. Under the terms of the bond measure, these funds are continuously appropriated without regard to fiscal year to the CWC.

The Commission initially allocated funds under Chapter 8 for the Temperance Flat Storage Project. However, the project was subsequently found not to meet the conditions approved by the voters for water storage and the CWC is now acting to revert those funds and to allocate them for other storage projects. In our view, to the extent those funds cannot be used for Temperance Flat, they should be allocated, to the maximum extent possible, for other water storage that will help the Valley, its farms, and its residences.

This week, Governor Newsom extended the State's extreme drought emergency to encompass the Central Valley. Our water agencies and community water systems, and many others in the valley, have long lists of immediate "shovel ready" water storage projects that are urgently needed for our region to weather coming hot summer months and lack of water in our region.

We strongly urge the Water Commission to review the submittals of the Valley water agencies and community water systems to find the most qualified and immediate projects that could be funded with Chapter 8 funds.

If helpful, we would be pleased to help facilitate a meeting among our communities and the CWC to help engender a dialogue on this matter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to your early response.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hurtado
District 14, Senator



Jim Patterson
District 23, Assemblymember



Andreas Borgeas
District 8, Senator



Devon Mathis
District 26, Assemblymember



Anna Caballero
District 12, Senator



Joaquin Arambula
District 31, Assemblymember



Shannon Grove
District 16, Senator



Vince Fong
District 32, Assemblymember