



April 27, 2017

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

Dear California Water Commission Members,

As the largest urban user of San Joaquin River water, the City of Fresno strongly favors the proposal to develop Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir. Our City Council urges the Water Commission to give favorable consideration to the application, now in the early preparation stage, for funding authorized for new storage and related facilities under Chapter 8 of Proposition 1, the California water bond authorized by state voters in 2014. The 1.3 million acre-feet of new San Joaquin River water storage to be created by Temperance Flat would be a tremendous benefit to the City's half-million residents and its vibrant business and industrial economic partners.

Temperance Flat is anticipated to offer significant benefits over a wide region, and the City of Fresno is well positioned to make good use of its increase in surface water capacity. The City has a federal Central Valley Project contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for 60,000 acre-feet of Class 1 water delivered from Friant Dam through the Friant-Kern Canal.

Years of drought and regulatory curtailments saw several years with significantly reduced or zero deliveries from the Friant Division. But over the last two winters with above average precipitation led to large flood releases, due entirely to Millerton Reservoir's insufficient capacity to retain that water. Temperance Flat Dam would increase storage capacity threefold, reducing uncertainty for municipal water users like Fresno.

The City has traditionally relied heavily on groundwater and associated recharge activities for its municipal water supply. Recognizing the over-reliance upon extracted groundwater within the City and elsewhere in the San Joaquin Valley, the City for many years has been shifting a significant portion of its supply base to surface water from the San Joaquin and Kings rivers for which it has entitlements. The City currently operates a surface treatment plant to utilize our water deliveries via the Friant-Kern Canal, with a second plant under construction for Kings River supplies.

With the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the City is more reliant on these surface treatment plants than ever before. Beyond the increased capacity Temperance Flat operations would provide these facilities, the project's related infrastructure for conveyance and recharge are critical to the City and region's groundwater sustainability efforts.

The City recognizes and wishes to help address the broad negative effects of California's water supply crisis on the Valley. These impacts are particularly perilous within the five counties — Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kings and Tulare. The City of Fresno has financially supported the recently-organized San Joaquin Valley Water

Infrastructure Authority, a Joint Powers Authority of these affected counties, through the two small cities — Orange Cove and Avenal — that are members of the Authority board as representatives of other municipalities.

The Authority in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation are finalizing the Temperance Flat feasibility study and will soon be providing a formal application to the Commission for project funding through Chapter 8 of Proposition 1. The enhanced flood protection, environmental improvements, and expanded surface storage created by Temperance Flat will be shown in the Authority’s application to be a big part of the solution in meeting the water storage needs of the Central Valley and the entire state.

On April 27th, 2016 the Fresno City Council reaffirmed its support of Temperance Flat Dam in the attached resolution, and urges the Commission to accept and approve state bond funding for the Temperance Flat Project.

Sincerely,

Clint Olivier, Council President

Esmeralda Soria, Council Vice-President

Steve Brandau, Councilmember District 2

Oliver Baines III, Councilmember District 3

Paul Caprioglio, Councilmember District 4

Luis Chavez, Councilmember District 5

Garry Bredefeld, Councilmember District 6

ATTACHMENT: Resolution of the Fresno City Council in Support of Temperance Flat Dam