



County of Fresno

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March 6, 2018

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0031

District Office
Hugh Burns State Building
2550 Mariposa Mall, Suite 5031
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: AB 3218 - Millerton Lake State Recreation Area Expansion

Dear Assemblyman Dr. Arambula:

Pursuant to direction by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, we are submitting to you this letter in response to Assembly Bill 3218, which would direct the State of California's Department of Parks and Recreation to make *all efforts* to acquire property along the San Joaquin River and approximately 6,000 acres of adjacent land between Friant Dam and State Highway 99 to the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area.

While we remain unaware of the implications and potential unintended consequences of this proposed legislation, Fresno County is indeed interested in any effort that would increase California State funding for operations and maintenance of recreational facilities on the San Joaquin River. This regional amenity deserves to be enjoyed by all visitors and members of our extended community.

However, if the result of AB 3218, intentional or otherwise, would be to restrict local control on the preservation efforts of the San Joaquin River, interfere with the jurisdictional authority of the San Joaquin River Conservancy, exercise eminent domain, or disrupt local partnerships or land use capabilities, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors would strongly oppose this legislation.

Fresno County would instead welcome the opportunity to learn whether the State of California would be willing to financially support operations and maintenance in a manner that does not subordinate the powers of the Conservancy to the State, is fair to existing partnerships, project obligations already underway, and local agencies entrusted with fulfilling the mission of the Conservancy. Fresno County, therefore, would encourage your office to immediately initiate and maintain discussions with Fresno County, Madera County, City of Fresno, the Conservancy, relevant members of the State legislature and other stakeholders on how best to craft this legislation.

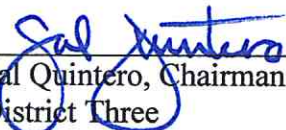
The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
March 6, 2018
Page 2

In particular, Fresno County respectfully requests the above-referenced concerns in paragraph three be clearly articulated and incorporated as protections into the proposed legislation, included in all vote discussions, and memorialized in the legislative history.


Thank you in advance for your consideration and Fresno County looks forward to hearing from your office well prior to the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 @ 9:00 AM.

Sincerely,


Fresno County Board of Supervisors



Sal Quintero, Chairman
District Three



Brian Pacheco, Supervisor
District One



Nathan Magsig, Supervisor
District Five



Andreas Borgeas, Vice-Chairman
District Two



Ernest Buddy Mendes, Supervisor
District Four

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors
Melinda Marks, Director, San Joaquin River Conservancy
San Joaquin River Conservancy Board
Assembly Members Jim Patterson and Frank Bigelow
Senator Tom Berryhill
Lee Brand, Mayor of the City of Fresno
Jean M. Rousseau, Fresno County Administrative Officer
Madera County Board of Supervisors
Paul J. Yoder, State Legislative Advocate