

Salinas Valley Water Coalition

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2 May, 2022

The past two months of the announced State budget “surplus” have presented an opportunity for Monterey County Water Resources Agency to solicit funds from the State for the deferred maintenance projects at the two reservoirs and dams. This process was initially triggered by a letter sent by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors asking for a \$312 million dollar allocation from the State general fund for not only the deferred maintenance projects, but also the drinking water pipeline to San Lucas and the Inter-Lake Tunnel Project.

Through more extensive discussions with our State representatives, we’ve come to learn that our funding request is best limited to those projects that are related directly to water supply infrastructure and drinking water resources for disadvantaged communities. This would then include the deferred maintenance projects and the water supply pipeline to San Lucas, and include only the studies to complete the evaluation of the Inter-Lake Tunnel Project and not the project construction itself.

In order to show unity, the local agricultural associations came together to request that the Board of Supervisors send a revised letter in support of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency’s (MCWRA) request for State funding that recognizes and specifically prioritizes \$160 million for the repair and maintenance of the Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs and dams for their safe and proper operations, and also support the request for State funding for the drinking water pipeline from King City to San Lucas at \$12 million.

As we are still unsure in what form the State will grant any funds for water infrastructure projects, the agricultural organizations are initiating a process to gather broad community support for this funding allocation. The intent is to present a comprehensive package of support for water infrastructure funding when the process is fully identified, or our State representatives provide a pathway in which to formally submit the budget allocation through the “May Budget Revise” process.

Our State Representatives have asked for letters of support for this funding request.

Attached here you will find a template letter that provides a starting point for your letter of support. We intend to collect as many letters from farming, ranching, and processing operations as possible, to show wide support for repairing and maintaining our critical reservoirs and dams.

Funding for our reservoir and dam repairs is critical to meeting the objectives of our groundwater sustainability plans, recharging our groundwater basin, and managing future water supplies for flood control and water storage capacity, and satisfying the federal and state agencies overseeing our dam operations and safety.

Please submit your letter of support directly to administration@montereycfb.com where it will be compiled for the funding request package. Please respond by Tuesday, May 10th, and please email me a copy as well to nisakson@mbay.net.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact me at 831-224-2879 or via email nisakson@mbay.net.

Thank you for your support of this effort!

Your Salinas Valley Water Coalition Board

Keith Roberts, Chair
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Mission Statement: The water resources of the Salinas River Basin should be managed properly in a manner that promotes fairness and equity to all landowners within the basin. The management of these resources should have a scientific basis, comply with all laws and regulations, and promote the accountability of the governing agencies.