

STAFF REPORT

Date: July 11, 2017
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Bryan Montgomery, City Manager 
SUBJECT: **Letter of Support for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Proposition 1 Grant Application**

Background

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is leading a number of other public agencies to expand the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The recent drought helped many realize the need to increase water storage and Los Vaqueros has been an unquestioned success. There is capacity to expand the Reservoir and funding is available through the State's Proposition 1 program. More information is attached and available at this link: <http://www.ccwater.com/733/About-the-Project>

The City of Oakley receives its water from the Diablo Water District that is a partner agency with CCWD and its Los Vaqueros Reservoir.

Fiscal Impact

None to the City of Oakley.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of support for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Proposition 1 grant application.

Attachment

1. Proposed Letter
2. Background Information

July 12, 2017

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Support for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Proposition 1 Grant Application

Dear Chair Quintero:

The City Council of the City of Oakley is writing to express its strong support for the Water Supply Investment Program funding application submitted for Proposition 1 funding for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project.

In 2014, California voters approved \$2.7 billion in funding for water storage projects as part of Proposition 1: the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014. The approval by voters signaled that they understand the importance of water storage and are willing to fund construction projects. The recent drought followed by the wettest year on record only further highlighted the state-wide need for more storage to prepare for drought and flood emergencies.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir in Brentwood, with fully-screened Delta intakes, that has the potential to provide multiple public benefits that qualify for Proposition 1 funding. Public benefits of this project include: supply for South-of-Delta wildlife refuges; drought and emergency preparedness; statewide integration potential; protection of water quality; and recreation enhancement.

Expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir is a project that embodies what the voters approved when they passed Proposition 1. This is a forward-thinking project, operating surface storage in a unique way for regional and environmental benefits.

We appreciate the California Water Commission's consideration of this important project and encourage the Commission to approve the Proposition 1 funding application.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact our City Manager, Bryan Montgomery, with any questions at (925) 625-7025.

Sincerely,

Sue Higgins
Mayor

cc: California Water Commission members

LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT



RESERVOIR EXPANSION

275,000 acre-feet PROPOSED

Proposed project builds upon the successful implementation of the first expansion

160,000 acre-feet 2012

The dam was increased in height by 34 feet to a new height of 218 feet

100,000 acre-feet 1998

Los Vaqueros Dam was completed

OBJECTIVES

- Develop water supplies for environmental water management
- Increase water supply reliability
- Improve the quality of water deliveries

PURPOSE

WATER FOR REFUGES



Reliable water supply for South of Delta wildlife refuges

WATER FOR PARTNERS



Reliable water supply for local water agencies

STATEWIDE INTEGRATION



High potential for statewide water system integration

WATER QUALITY



Protection of delivered water quality

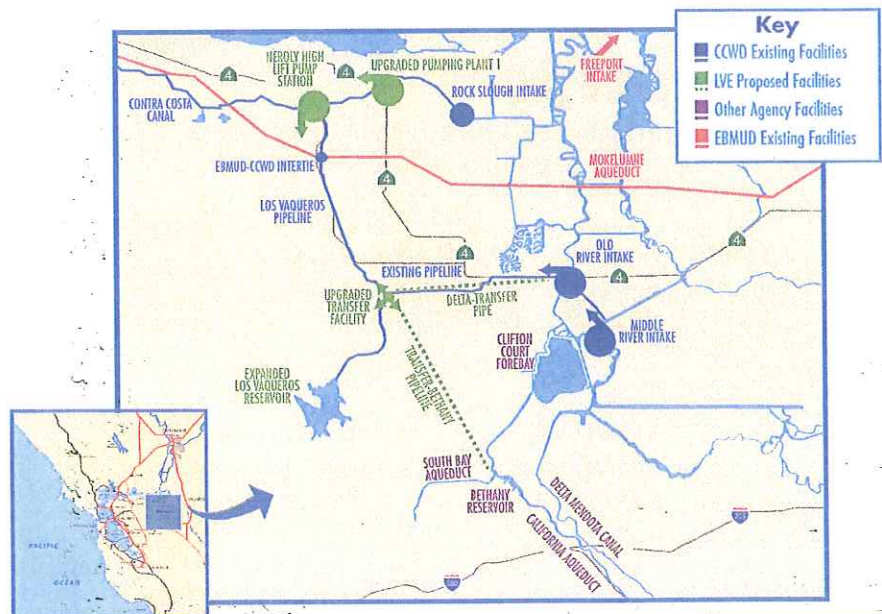
RECREATION



Recreation facility enhancement

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Water is pumped into the system from one of four existing Delta Intakes.
- 2 Once in the system, water is sent to an upgraded Transfer Facility.
- 3 From the Transfer Facility, water can be delivered directly to partner agencies or stored in an expanded Los Vaqueros Reservoir for later delivery.



FUNDING

- Estimated project cost:

\$800 Million

- Prop. 1 funding could pay for the public benefits of Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

PROP 1 PUBLIC BENEFIT CATEGORIES

- Ecosystem improvement
- Emergency response
- Water quality improvement
- Recreation

- Up to 50% of project cost may be paid for by California Proposition 1

50% = Prop 1

- Remainder of project cost would be covered by partner agencies

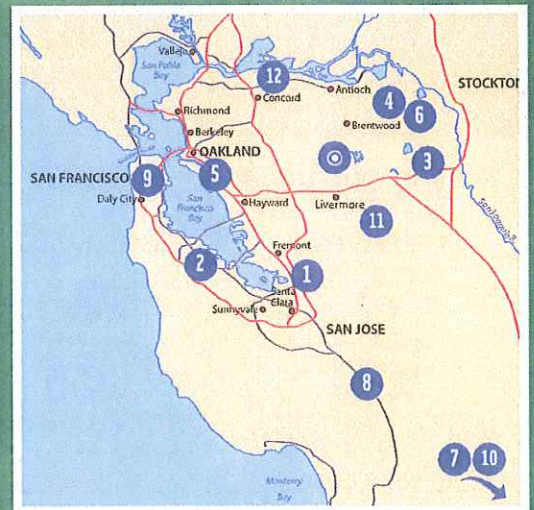


POTENTIAL PARTNERS

These agencies have provided funding and in-kind services, and are evaluating potential participation in the project to diversify their water supply portfolios against drought, emergencies, climate change and regulatory challenges.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Alameda County Water District | 7 Grassland Water District |
| 2 Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency | 8 Santa Clara Valley Water District |
| 3 Byron Bethany Irrigation District | 9 San Francisco Public Utilities Commission |
| 4 City of Brentwood | 10 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority |
| 5 East Bay Municipal Utility District | 11 Zone 7 Water Agency |
| 6 East Contra Costa Irrigation District | 12 Contra Costa Water District |



NEXT STEPS

CCWD is currently working with Reclamation and the local potential partners and wildlife refuge managers to evaluate project alternatives, facilities, and operations.

