



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

July 3, 2019

Valley Water Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

RE: July 9, 2019 Agenda Item 4.2 Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Board Work Plan

Dear Chair LeZotte and Members of the Board,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter is concerned about Valley Water's continued focus on exploring new surface storage opportunities in your 2019-2020 Board Work Plan, especially the inclusion of the Shasta Dam Expansion project.

It is illegal for California agencies to participate in the Shasta Dam project as documented in the Attorney General's complaint against Westlands Water District for doing so (attached). My public comments to this Board at your June 25, 2019 meeting (attached) further stated how Valley Water is vulnerable as a member of the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority.

The decision about participation in the Shasta Dam project is too important to be left to the Water Storage Exploratory Committee and needs to be brought to the full Board first to give direction to the committee. The Board shouldn't simply allow the committee to discuss participation in a project that both the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board have said is illegal. The Board would be wiser to direct the committee to discuss how the District can pull back from any whiff of participation in the project

Furthermore, the Draft Water Supply Master Plan now includes the Shasta Reservoir as an active project, saying "State law ... restricts funding for any studies. Staff will continue to monitor opportunities related to Shasta Reservoir Expansion." The Plan should be updated to say State law prohibits assistance and cooperation with state, federal, or local agencies on the project.

The Draft Water Supply Master Plan also says "The projects already approved by the Board for planning (California WaterFix (SWP and CVP), 24,000 AFY of reuse, the "No Regrets" package of additional water conservation and stormwater capture projects, Transfer-Bethany Pipeline, and Pacheco Reservoir), along with South County Recharge, **exceed the recommended level of service goal.**" This doesn't include the Los Vaqueros Expansion and Sites Reservoir projects, both of which Valley Water has already paid in to.

Basically, the Master Plan is saying that no additional dam projects are needed unless something changes with the approved projects, yet Los Vaqueros, Sites and Shasta remain as active projects under the Plan. As we have explained, Shasta is the most immediately problematic of these dam projects.

Valley Water's Ends Policies says "A net positive impact on the environment is important in support of the District mission and is reflected in all that we do" (policy 1.4). The destruction of a river protected in the California Wild and Scenic Act is a major negative impact on the environment. Do the right thing and don't participate in the destruction of this important environmental resource.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katja Irvin".

Katja Irvin
Conservation Committee Co-Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter