

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0506

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Camille Touton  
Commissioner of Reclamation  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I write to express my support for the Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank), which is seeking \$30 million through the Bureau of Reclamation's water storage funding authorized through the recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Water Bank, managed by the Sacramento Region Water Authority, is an innovative groundwater storage program that will improve regional water supply reliability in the near-term and into the future. This project, which could be fully operational in the next few years, has a potential storage capacity of 1.8 million-acre feet.

The Sacramento region's unique setting—at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers near Folsom Reservoir and overlying the North American and South American groundwater subbasins—is ideal for the Water Bank's development allowing groundwater to be stored in wet years. When groundwater is used as a local source in dry years, surface water is available to support flows for fish and other sensitive species in the lower American River and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, among other beneficial uses.

The Water Bank is both environmentally friendly and prepares for the effects of extreme climate change that the Sacramento region is already experiencing. In the past two months, the region reported a historic high of 17.5 feet of snow in December followed by the second driest January on record. To prepare for these increasingly volatile weather patterns, the Federal government must support innovative methods to efficiently capture water as it becomes available.

To date, the Water Bank has already been awarded \$870,000 in WIIN Act funding which has allowed the American River region to move forward with an agreement with Reclamation aimed toward completion of environmental and technical studies which would allow the bank to further expand its water supply capabilities. This supportive partnership with Reclamation will not only help the region's water resources needs, but also provide flexibility in Reclamation CVP operations.

Facing record droughts, the Sacramento Water Bank provides a sustainable, long-term water resource. I look forward to working with you on this essential project. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI  
Member of Congress