

RESOLUTION NO. YEAR—2017-14

**RESOLUTION OF SAN BENITO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 1
WATER STORAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION
FOR EXPANSION OF PACHECO RESERVOIR**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, in collaboration with San Benito County Water District (District) and Pacheco Pass Water District (PPWD), is applying for Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) funding for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project; and,

WHEREAS, farms and ranches in San Benito County – a region that experienced record farm gate values of \$360.5 million in 2015 – rely on reliable and sustainable water supplies; and,

WHEREAS, the District is a member of the Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (PRWFPA), established in 2000, with the mission to identify, fund, and implement flood prevention and control strategies in the Pajaro River Watershed; and,

WHEREAS, three groundwater subbasins of the Gilroy-Hollister Valley Basin are identified as medium priority regions as defined by the California Department of Water Resources' California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program and, therefore, subject to requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the District supports the upgrade, expansion, or construction of flood management and water storage projects that help protect the public, private property and transportation infrastructure to damaging floods, that help improve water quality in surface and groundwater sources, and help protect and enhance habitat for fish and other wildlife on major tributaries to the Pajaro River (San Benito River, Pacheco Creek); and,

WHEREAS, the District seeks to maintain the long-term survival of the threatened South-Central California steelhead as part of an integrated network of open space lands that support natural resources, recreation, tribal resources, wildlife, water management, scenic quality and other benefits; and,

WHEREAS, the District seeks to enhance long-term reliability of CVP M&I deliveries to the City of Hollister, and San Benito County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the San Benito County Water District approves to support the Santa Clara Valley Water District's submittal of a Proposition 1 WSIP application for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project in a manner that:

- Contributes to a reliable and sustainable water supply for the 500+ growers and ranchers in San Benito County;
- Helps ensure continued supply of municipal and industrial customers in the City of Hollister and San Benito County;
- Supports District compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014;
- Supports PRWFPA efforts to improve flood management on a watershed based, regional scale and for at-risk communities along Pacheco Creek and the Pajaro River, including the unincorporated communities of Dunneville and Pajaro, and the City of Watsonville, which are Disadvantaged Communities as defined by the State of California;
- Contributes to the long-term survival of the threatened South-Central California steelhead through provision of suitable flows and temperatures in Pacheco Creek; and
- Supports the protection of Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR) consistent with Public Resource Code Section 21074 and Government Code Section 65351.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District that the President of the Board is authorized to sign said Resolution, on behalf of this Board and District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District this 31st day of July, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: DIRECTORS: Tobias, Tonascia, Bettencourt & Flores

NOES: DIRECTORS: Huenemann

ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS: None

ABSENT: DIRECTORS: None

/s/John Tobias
John Tobias
President

ATTEST: /s/Sara Singleton
Sara Singleton
Assistant Manager