

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Josh Harder
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for WRDA 2026 Language – Farmington Reservoir Project

Dear Congressman Harder,

On behalf of the Stockton East Water District (SEWD), I am writing to express our strong support for your proposed language in the 2026 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to expedite completion of the feasibility study for ~~modifications~~ enhancements to Farmington Dam for our Farmington Reservoir Project.

The Farmington Reservoir Project is critically important to the long-term sustainability of San Joaquin County's agricultural economy, local communities, and the Nation's food supply. San Joaquin County is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the state, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and contributing billions of dollars annually to California's economy. Reliable water supplies are essential to sustaining this economic engine.

Your proposed WRDA language appropriately recognizes the urgency of advancing multi-benefit water infrastructure projects. By expediting the Corps' review and allowing the project to proceed directly to preconstruction planning and design if justified, this provision would significantly reduce delays and help move the Farmington Reservoir Project toward implementation.

The Farmington Reservoir Project would ~~convert~~ enhance an existing flood-control facility into a dual-purpose reservoir, creating approximately 60,000 acre-feet of new water supply storage while maintaining the existing 52,000 acre-feet of essential flood protection. This additional storage would provide a dependable water reserve for municipal and agricultural users, allow for additional storage of SEWD's Central Valley Project (CVP) supplies, support compliance with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, reduce groundwater overdraft and related undesirable results, and improve regional water reliability in the face of climate-driven hydrologic variability.

Beyond its local benefits, the project supports statewide and national interests by strengthening California's agricultural productivity and reinforcing domestic food

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production and supply chain resilience. In this way, the Farmington Reservoir Project aligns squarely with federal priorities related to economic stability, infrastructure resilience, and national food security. Additionally, at an estimated cost of \$200 million, this enhancement project provides exponential value over new surface water storage projects.

SEWD greatly appreciates your leadership and continued advocacy for practical, forward-looking water infrastructure solutions in the San Joaquin Valley. We look forward to continuing to work with your office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to advance this important project.

Please do not hesitate to contact our General Manager, Justin Hopkins, at jhopkins@sewd.net if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

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Thomas McGurk, President
Stockton East Water District

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