



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

The Honorable John Laird
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814
Senator.Laird@senate.ca.gov

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814
Senator.Caballero@senate.ca.gov

The Honorable Robert Rivas
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814
Assemblymember.Rivas@assembly.ca.gov

The Honorable Dawn Addis
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5350
Sacramento, CA 95814
Assemblymember.Addis@assembly.ca.gov

Re: Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) Funding

Dear Senators Laird and Caballero, and Assemblymembers Rivas and Addis:

On behalf of the City of Paso Robles, I write to respectfully urge that you put forth a request for funding in the FY 23/24 State Budget for critical operational and safety upgrades at the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams located in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. Nacimiento and San Antonio dams provide flood control, drought resiliency, water supply, groundwater recharge, recreational, and other benefits to the California Central Coast. The Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) projects include a series of subprojects to fully rehabilitate the original dams, built in the 1950's and 1960's to ensure their continued service for Salinas Valley flood control and to provide critical water supplies to cities and over-drafted water basins in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. The estimated cost for the CAMP projects is **\$160 million**.

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency owns and manages the dams and identified subprojects comprising the CAMP in compliance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) regulations and to ensure long-term operability and safety of these facilities. The proposed high priority subprojects were identified based on three goals: (1) compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements; (2) restoring full operational functionality; and (3) public and employee safety.

Both Dams are designated by the State as Extremely High Hazard Dam facilities providing critical flood protection to the greater Salinas Valley and mitigating downstream flooding including regions where flooding could cut off the Monterey Peninsula and its member cities. In Monterey County, the reservoirs recharge groundwater basins that serve over 200,000 residents in five cities and unincorporated areas that utilize wells for their primary drinking water supply. The reservoirs support more than 418,000 acres of highly productive farmland known as the "salad bowl of the world" that exports across the globe to

13 major trading partner countries. The agricultural industry is the foundation of Monterey County's economy generating an estimated \$11.7 billion annually and sustaining over 63,900 jobs critical to supporting disadvantaged communities in the region.

The City of Paso Robles is a participant in the Lake Nacimiento Water Project, which provides a crucial water source for our community. The City currently utilizes Nacimiento water to diversify the City's water supply portfolio and improve supply reliability for our community. The City treats Lake Nacimiento water at its water treatment plant for direct delivery to customers. The water can be turned into the Salinas River channel and recovered through a specially designed well. Finally, in times of drought, the City can augment surface water supplies with Nacimiento water to maintain productivity of the City's river wells. The use of Lake Nacimiento water allows the City to reduce its dependency on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, and provide a reliable long-term water supply for the City. Ensuring the sustainability of this water source is of great importance to the City. This funding request is necessary to safeguard this essential resource for many generations to come.

We are grateful for your leadership and ongoing support to our residents and communities in the central coast region and appreciate your consideration of funding these critical flood control and water supply infrastructure projects. Should you have any questions regarding this request please contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at (916) 442-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Martin".

Steve Martin, Mayor
City of Paso Robles

Cc: Luis A. Alejo, Chair Monterey County Board of Supervisors – AlejoL@co.monterey.ca.us
The Honorable Gregg Hart, Assemblymember – Assemblymember.Hart@assembly.ca.gov
Trey Elizondo, Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta – trey.Elizondo@mail.house.gov
Dustin Weber, Office of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren – Dustin.Weber@mail.house.gov
Johanna Montiel, Office of Congressman Salud Carbajal – Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov
John Hamon, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Paso Robles
Chris Bausch, Councilmember, City of Paso Robles
Steve Gregory, Councilmember, City of Paso Robles
Fred Strong, Councilmember, City of Paso Robles
Casey Elliott, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.