

**Pisoni Farms**  
P.O. Box 908  
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831-675-7500

April 5, 2023

The Honorable John Laird  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8720  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[Senator.Laird@senate.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Pisoni Farms, 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.

Our family has been farming in the Salinas Valley for three generations. Over that time period, the Nacimiento and San Antonio dams have provided critical flood control and groundwater recharge, that has allowed us to produce healthy and nutritious food for our communities and for our nation. After this year's rain season, we see how important it is to prioritize our state's water infrastructure so that we can capture and store water during wet years while providing important flood control for our communities. Prioritizing infrastructure repairs will prevent greater future loss if those dams were to fail, and it makes our state more resilient.

The estimated cost for the Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) projects is \$160 million. This would 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. Many of those cities that depend on that water are our very own Salinas Valley cities which are predominantly communities of color and located in rural areas. The reservoirs

also support more than 418,000 acres of highly productive farmland known as the “salad bowl of the world.” We are often overlooked since we don’t have large populations, however we quite literally feed our state and nation. Restoring the dams to full operational functionality is in everyone’s interest to ensure a secure food supply.

These reservoirs also provide a buffer against drought conditions in both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, mitigating seawater intrusion in critically over-drafted groundwater basins and facilitating implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans so we can ensure compliance with SGMA.

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.

Sincerely,



Mark Pisoni  
Farmer  
Pisoni Farms

cc:

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta: email Trey Elizondo, [trey.elizondo@mail.house.gov](mailto:trey.elizondo@mail.house.gov)  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren: email Dustin Weber, [Dustin.Weber@mail.house.gov](mailto:Dustin.Weber@mail.house.gov)  
The Honorable Salud Carbajal: email Johanna Montiel, [Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov)  
Luis A. Alejo, Chair, Monterey County Supervisors, [alejol@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:alejol@co.monterey.ca.us)