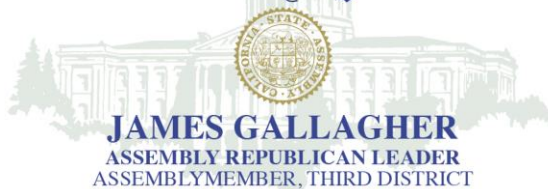


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August 14, 2025

California Water Commission
P.O. Box 924836
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Delivered via e-mail to: cwc@water.ca.gov

RE: Letter of Support - Proposed Rulemaking on Early Funding Regulations (Agenda Item 10)

Dear Honorable Members of the California Water Commission,

I write in strong support of the proposed regulation change to the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) regulations, as outlined in Agenda Item 10 for the Commission's August 20, 2025, meeting. Specifically, I endorse the removal of the \$135 million dollar cap on early funding as set forth in 23 CCR § 6010.

This change is critical to ensure that reallocated funds from withdrawn projects, such as the Los Vaqueros Expansion, can be fully utilized by remaining WSIP projects. In particular, it would enable the Sites Reservoir Project to access additional early funding necessary for completing environmental documentation and permits. This would allow the project to put reallocated funding to immediate use and advance toward construction in 2026, providing much-needed water storage capacity to benefit California's agriculture, communities, and ecosystems.

The Sites Reservoir Project represents a vital opportunity to enhance water reliability, support environmental flows, and create recreational benefits for Californians, in line with the voter-approved goals of Proposition 1. Removing the dollar cap on early funding will help expedite this vital project without altering the total funding available or the rigorous statutory requirements for final awards.

I urge the Commission to adopt this regulation change at the upcoming meeting to facilitate timely progress on these important water storage initiatives. Thank you for your leadership in administering the WSIP and for considering this important adjustment. Please feel free to contact my office at (916) 319-2003 if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "James Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Gallagher, District 3
Assembly Republican Leader