

ERIN HANNIGAN
District 1, Vice-Chair (707) 553-5363
MONICA BROWN
District 2, (707) 784-3031
WANDA WILLIAMS
District 3, (707) 784-6136
JOHN M. VASQUEZ
District 4, (707) 784-6129
MITCH MASHBURN
District 5, Chair (707) 784-6030

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



BILL EMLEN
County Administrator
(707) 784-6100

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342
Fax (707) 784-6665

www.solanocounty.com

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta One Water Initiative

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to seek \$8 million in the Fiscal Year 2025 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, under Corps of Engineers, Construction, for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta One Water Initiative, authorized under section 8375 of Public Law 117-263. The goal of the program is to promote a holistic, sustainable, and inclusive approach to water management in the Delta, one that seeks to maximize the resilience and benefits of future investments in water supply, wastewater, stormwater, source water protection, environmental restoration, and flood control infrastructure.

Solano County Water Utilities Master Plan (Solano County) / FY25 Request: \$2,000,000

Purpose and Need: Grant proceeds would be used to develop a Solano County Water Utilities Master Plan (Plan). The Plan will build upon the Solano County One Water Framework (Framework), a stakeholder-driven process currently underway to identify criteria for holistic planning and implementation of water supply, wastewater, and drainage improvement, flood protection, and ecosystem enhancements in the County. Together, the Framework and Plan will move the County away from single resource management practices, and toward developing a multi-benefit, holistic approach to better address the impacts of climate change and improve the health of the Delta. The Plan will identify high-priority water, wastewater, recycled water, drainage and flood infrastructure needs, and support equitable projects and programs that provide multiple benefits to countywide land uses and the increasing challenges associated with water management. The Plan will align with the County's General Plan, leverage existing infrastructure, expand the water supply portfolio, and promote collaboration with local and regional stakeholders.

The Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project (Contra Costa County) / FY 25 Request: \$2,000,000

Purpose and Need: The County supports this project being implemented under the aegis of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy. The Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project has been almost a decade in development. In its entirety, the project will restore a 645-acre property in the western Delta providing a mosaic of habitats for state and federally threatened and endangered species. Benefits ancillary to the habitat restoration include conservation of open space, improved Delta water quality and increased local resilience to flood events. The assessment, planning, design, and permitting phases are complete and have been funded entirely by state and local agencies. It is anticipated that the Project Partnership Agreement will be entered into with the Army Corps within a few months of enactment of the FY '24 Appropriations bill. The project is moving to construction and the requested amount will fund restoration of the critical 80-acre North Parcel. Elements of this work include boundary levee improvements, excavation of soils to create wetland features, revegetation,

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and interior dune habitat enhancement to support federal and state protected native species in the Delta region.

Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project (Sacramento County) / FY 25 Request: \$2,000,000

Purpose and Need: Sacramento County seeks \$2 million for technical, planning and design assistance for the Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project. The funds will be used to support County efforts to identify flood risk reduction measures along the Cosumnes River (including flood risk reductions that protect private water infrastructure) and identify opportunities for additional habitat and water supply reliability benefits in the Lower Con Cosumnes River. In January 2023, the second highest flow in history was recorded on the Cosumnes River, with flows of more than 65,000 cubic feet per second – second to the 1997 record. This caused multiple levee breaches, which caused flooding to critical water infrastructure, Dillard Road and Highway 99, diminished habitat values, and led to loss of life and major crop damages. Supplies for levee repairs across multiple jurisdictions and some support for road access Improvements are urgently needed in the area.

Acampo Drainage Project – Phase 2b (San Joaquin County) / FY 25 Request: \$2,000,000

Purpose and Need: Grant proceeds would be used for the design, environmental clearance, and regulatory permitting for the next phase of the Acampo Area Drainage Innovation Project, with an estimated cost of \$5 million. The Acampo area of San Joaquin County, a disadvantaged community, experiences flooding about once every ten years on average due in part to changes in the upper watershed that occurred over generations. In response to relatively severe flooding in 2017, a multiphase plan was developed, and the first phase of the plan was completed in 2019, which a drainage system in Coopers' Corner area consisting of drainage pipes and inlets and a pump system. The area once again was subject to significant flooding in 2023. The second phase would continue efforts to provide additional flood risk reduction by intercepting and diverting surface flood waters upstream of the Acampo Area towards the Mokelumne River and conveying and spreading flood flows onto agricultural lands with suitable soil profiles. In addition to improving flood protection for the community, the recharged floodwaters via natural infrastructure would improve groundwater conditions in a critically over drafted groundwater basin. Completion of Phase 2 and future phases will not only improve water supply resiliency but also further reduce the frequency and magnitude of flooding for area residents, businesses, a mobile home park, two schools and roadways, including State Route 99 which was closed for several days due to the 2023 flood event.

Justification for Request of Earmark Funding

California experienced droughts for 15 of the last 20 years. Several of these drought periods have been followed by historic floods. The fragile Delta ecosystem and water quality continue to be at risk. The DCC seeks federal support for local initiatives that will advance holistic, multi-benefit solutions to future water management investments in the five Delta Counties. The Delta One Water initiative provides the opportunity for the five delta counties to collectively re-envision locally led infrastructure investments for long-term improvements in water quality, flood control, ecological benefits, and improved local water storage through stormwater capture and aquifer recharge that benefits the delta.

Thank you for your support and consideration of this important community project request.

Sincerely,



Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

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CC:

The Honorable Laphonza Butler, U.S. Senator
The Honorable John Garamendi, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Mike Thompson, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Misty Kaltreider, Department of Resource Management
Paragon Government Relations
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners