



October 23, 2025

Ms. Karla Nemeth
Director, Department of Water Resources
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Expediting Proposition 4 Funding for DWR's Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program

Dear Director Nemeth:

The signatories to this letter actively supported the development of the legislation that created the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program (DSCRLAP) in 2023 (Water Code §6700, *et seq.*), as well as Proposition 4's allocation of \$480 million for this critical state program (Public Resource Code §91022). With the Governor and Legislature's recent appropriation of over \$228 million of Proposition 4 funding to DSCRLAP, we write to strongly encourage DWR to expeditiously and efficiently implement this important new state program by utilizing DSCRLAP's statutory exemption from the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

DSCRLAP's authorizing statute includes an exemption from the APA when developing and adopting program guidelines and project solicitation documents. (Water Code §6700(a)(2).) This programmatic exemption clearly supersedes the more general authorization granted via subsequent legislation for the state to adopt program guidelines and selection criteria for Proposition 4 when "needed to effectuate or implement" a program funded by Proposition 4. (Public Resource Code §90135(e).)

We appreciate DWR's careful consideration of this issue. We stand ready to engage with DWR to ensure that DSCRLAP can achieve its intended purpose of enabling the State of California to partner with dam owners to expeditiously and efficiently protect public safety, restore water storage capacity, reduce flood risk and advance the other public benefits defined in state law.

Sincerely,

Willie Whittlesey, General Manager
Yuba Water Agency

**Julia Bishop Hall, State Legislative Director
Association of California Water Agencies**

**Andrea Abergel, Director of Water
California Municipal Utilities Association**

**Paul A. Cook, General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District**

**Dan Denham, General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority**

**Carlos Quintero, General Manager
Sweetwater Authority**

**Federico Barajas, Executive Director
San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority**

**Jason A. Martin, General Manager
Rancho California Water District**

**Pravani Vandeyar, General Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District**

**Jason Campbell, Executive Director
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency**

**Mauricio Guardado, General Manager
United Water Conservation District**

**Melanie Richardson, P.E., Interim Chief Executive Officer
Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water)**

cc: Ms. Laura Hollander, Deputy Director, Flood Management & Dam Safety, DWR