



News Release

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Invites Low-Interest Loan Application from Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Concord – This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) invited the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to apply for a low-interest, federal loan of up to \$675 million. With a successful application, the JPA expects to secure the necessary funding to complete design and construction for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project.

Earlier this week, the federal Bureau of Reclamation allocated \$82 million to the project from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as part of a requested \$203 million in federal funding. In April, the California Water Commission increased the available funds to \$477 million for the project from Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

“We are proud that the federal government sees the critical water supply reliability and environmental benefits of the Los Vaqueros Project,” said Board Chair Angela Ramirez Holmes. “This low-interest loan will be an important piece of the financing puzzle to

make this project affordable for our members and their ratepayers.”

The USEPA invited the Los Vaqueros Reservoir JPA to submit a loan application as part of its FY 2022 Selection Round for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). The application is due before December 31, 2023.

“We have outstanding local partners and a fantastic project team that have worked tirelessly to develop a water storage expansion project to meet local, state, and federal goals,” said Taryn Ravazzini, Executive Director of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority. “We are excited to take the next step and deliver a valuable project for the region and the nation.”

The Los Vaqueros Reservoir is an off-stream reservoir owned and operated by the Contra Costa Water District. The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority (JPA) provides governance and administration for the Phase 2 Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (Project).

The JPA was formed in October 2021 and is led by a Board of Directors representing the eight JPA member agencies. The Project will increase Bay Area and Central Valley water supply reliability, develop water supplies for wildlife refuges, and improve water quality while protecting Delta fisheries and providing additional Delta ecosystem benefits. When completed, it will increase the Los Vaqueros Reservoir capacity from 160,000 acre-feet to 275,000 acre-feet and add new and modified conveyance facilities to provide environmental, water supply reliability, operational flexibility, water quality, and recreational benefits.

The Project has been approved for \$477 million from California Proposition 1 funds and \$136 million from federal appropriations to date. The remainder of project costs will be covered by additional federal funding and JPA member contributions. Construction is expected to begin in 2023, pending necessary reviews and approvals, and would continue through 2030.