

January 15, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary-designee
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary-designee Duffy:

On behalf of The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint)*, we are writing to convey our support for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority) request for \$25 million of 2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), grant funding for planning efforts for the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion State Route 152 Modification (PM MER R5.239 to MER R6.295) Project (Project) in Merced County, California.

State Route 152 is an essential commute route for residents of Merced County and an essential freight link in the state. This travel artery has no existing transit options and is a critical transportation link for the agricultural interests and low-income residents who work in and near Merced County. BUILD funds will help this complex Project – which includes SR 152 seismic improvements, to preserve and protect this critical transportation infrastructure and the natural environment– will help move from plan to completion.

The Blueprint supports the Water Authority efforts to seek \$25 million in BUILD funding for the following Project planning efforts:

- Planning and design efforts for:
 - Modifications needed to protect the SR 152 roadway from wave action. With the proposed modifications to the Sisk Dam, the lowest point of the SR 152 crossing will be approximately 1 foot above the proposed maximum water storage level.
 - Application of appropriate and current Caltrans seismic design criteria.
 - Relocating the roadway in low elevation segments that will be prone to flooding.
- Ongoing public outreach to inform project design decisions

Sincerely,



Eddie Ocampo,
Chair
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

**The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley is a coalition of community leaders, businesses, water agencies, local governments, and agricultural representatives working together to address water management challenges in the region. The Blueprint speaks as a unified voice for the San Joaquin Valley to advance accessible, reliable solutions for a balanced water future for all.*