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April 1, 2019

Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on
Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Wieckowski:

This letter is to request that \$17 million from the General Fund be apportioned to the Department of Fish and Wildlife as a local assistance grant to pay for fish screens for the water conveyance tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio.

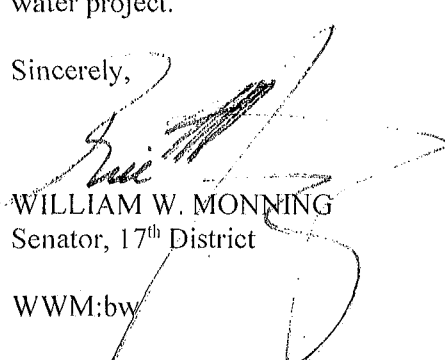
California's drought impacted the agricultural community in Monterey County, one of the most productive farming regions in the world. The proposed Interlake Tunnel project will connect Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs to transfer wet year water from Nacimiento Reservoir to San Antonio Reservoir in order to utilize existing water storage capacity. The project will increase regional water storage by approximately 60,000 acre-feet.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is requiring the tunnel design include fish screens to comply with current law, prohibiting the transfer of White Bass from Nacimiento reservoir to the San Antonio reservoir and to the San Antonio River and its tributaries.

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency is working on a Proposition 218 election for the agricultural growers to fund the \$70 million project, which includes raising the dam and constructing the tunnel. However, \$17 million in financial assistance is needed from the state to fund the required fish screens.

In 2016, the Legislature appropriated \$10 million to the Natural Resources Agency for tunnel feasibility studies, thus the state has a vested interest in ensuring the success of the Interlake Tunnel project. I ask that you give all due consideration to the request for additional funds to support this important regional water project.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM W. MONNING
Senator, 17th District

WWM:bw

cc: Chairwoman Holly Mitchell, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Thank you!