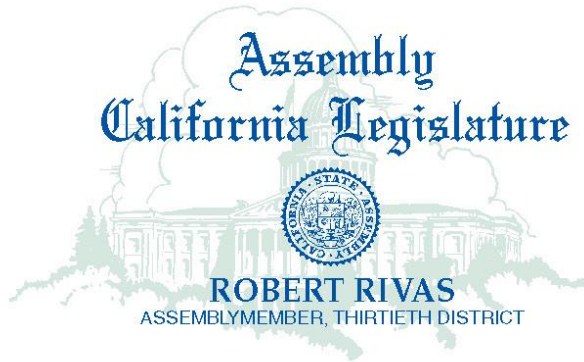


STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0030
(916) 319-2030
FAX (916) 319-2130

DISTRICT OFFICE
60 WEST MARKET STREET, SUITE 110
SALINAS, CA 93901
(831) 759-8676
FAX (831) 759-2961

Assembly
California Legislature



COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RULES

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request of \$17 Million for Nacimiento Reservoir to San Antonio Reservoir - Interlake Tunnel storage project

Dear Chairs Ting and Bloom:

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R + R", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Rivas
Assemblymember, District 30
RR:bls