

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2021

David Capka, P.E.
Director, Division of Dam Safety and
Inspections
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Frank L. Blackett, P.E.
Regional Engineer, Division of Dam Safety
and Inspections
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
100 First Street, Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Capka and Mr. Blackett,

We write to bring attention to Valley Water's attached concurrence request for a temporary variance to increase, through November 2022, Anderson Reservoir's drawdown level from 488 feet to 544 feet. Our understanding is that this measure would allow Valley Water to better manage limited water supplies as Santa Clara County continues to face extreme to exceptional drought conditions.

As you know, nearly all of California is currently in the "severe" drought category or worse. In fact, the State has experienced significant drought conditions in 13 of the last 22 years. That is 60 percent of the past two decades.


Valley Water asserts that the increase in safety risk associated with the temporary variance is minimal and would outweigh the adverse public health and safety impacts of this unprecedented drought. If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) believes that Valley Water's request presents undue risk to the public, then we would expect the request to be denied. If, however, the request does not pose undue risk to the public, we would ask that FERC fully examine and consider Valley Water's proposal. Valley Water has indicated to us that they would be eager to meet with the Division of Dam Safety and Inspections to discuss the proposal in greater detail, should that be useful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for FERC's ongoing commitment to this project and the safety of our constituents.


Sincerely,




ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



RO KHANNA
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress