



ECOS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
♦ COUNCIL ♦  
OF SACRAMENTO

Post Office Box 1526 | Sacramento, CA 95812-1526

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
United States House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ami Bera  
United States House of Representatives  
172 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Laphonza Butler  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Sacramento County FY25 Appropriations - Community Project Requests**

Dear Representatives Matsui and Bera and Senators Padilla and Butler:

The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) strongly supports Sacramento County's FY25 Community Project Requests for the Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project and the Arden Service Area Water Metering project. ECOS is a consortium of environmental and community-based organizations that works to improve the environment, community quality of life, and the economic health and welfare of the Sacramento region.

Sacramento County seeks \$2 million for technical, planning and design assistance for the Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project. The funds will be used to support County efforts to identify flood risk reduction measures, water recharge areas and project options, and habitat restoration opportunities along the lower Cosumnes River (including flood risk reductions that protect private water infrastructure). This multibenefit program will lead to significant improvements in flood protection and identify opportunities for additional habitat and water supply reliability benefits in the Lower Cosumnes River.

In January 2023, the second highest flow in history was recorded on the Cosumnes River, with flows of more than 65,000 cubic feet per second – second to the 1997 record. This caused multiple levee breaches, which caused flooding to critical water infrastructure, Dillard Road and Highway 99, diminished habitat values, and led to loss of life and major crop damages. Due to changing weather patterns, big storm events like the 2023 wet season are anticipated to occur more and

more frequently in the Cosumnes River Watershed. If action is not urgently taken, this could be catastrophic for the communities around Sacramento who must cross the watershed to access many services and devastating for the agricultural industry which serves as a major economic driver in the region. Supplies for levee repairs across multiple jurisdictions and some support for road access Improvements are urgently needed in the area.

The Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project will take advantage of the state-of-the-art analytical tool – ECO FIP, developed under the auspices of the California Department of Water Resources, to simulate river flows and how to best manage them at critical points along the lower Cosumnes River both for flood control and recharge – a critical water management need in the Cosumnes Groundwater Subbasin. Given the rural nature of the area it is essential that this project be funded under the Community Funded Project Request Program.

ECOS also asks for your support for \$2 million requested by the County for the Arden Service Area Water Metering project. Several small community water systems in the Arden Arcade area serve local Disadvantaged Communities. This project will accelerate the metering of 3,000 homes in the Arden area and is critical to promoting a sustainable water future for an underserved portion of our region. This service area is the only remaining portion of the County’s water system that is not metered, leaving the residents without information to effectively manage their water use. Once the residents have this information, their reduced water consumption will contribute to lowered groundwater pumping which will benefit all who rely on groundwater in the basin.

Thank you for your consideration of this request that benefits Sacramento County and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,



Susan Herre AIA AICP  
President of ECOS Board of Directors  
ECOS Board of Directors



Ted Rauh  
Chair  
ECOS Water Committee

Copy to:

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