

**DATE:** April 28, 2026**AGENDA ITEM NO. D-8**

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**TITLE:** Authorization of Section 203 Letter of Intent – Farmington Dam Feasibility Study**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Authorizing the Board President to Execute and Submit a Letter of Intent to Undertake the Farmington Dam Feasibility Study Under Section 203 of WRDA 1986

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**Executive Summary**

Staff requests the Board of Directors (Board) authorize the Board President to execute and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) to undertake a feasibility study for modifications to Farmington Dam pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The LOI initiates the formal process for Stockton East Water District (SEWD) to sponsor the study—authorized in WRDA 2024—to expand Farmington Dam from a 52,000 acre-foot flood control facility to a 112,000 acre-foot multi-purpose reservoir supporting water supply storage, groundwater recharge, and continued flood management for Rock Creek.

**Background**

Section 201(b)(2) of WRDA 2024 authorized the Secretary of the Army to conduct a feasibility study for modifications to the project for flood control and other purposes. The authorization specifically contemplates improved flood risk management and modifications to support water supply recharge and storage at Farmington Dam.

Section 203 of WRDA 1986, as amended, allows a non-federal interest to fund and prepare a feasibility study on behalf of the federal government, submit it directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and advance it to Congress for authorization—significantly expediting the process compared to a traditionally federally-led study. SEWD has engaged with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District, and both parties share an understanding of the importance of moving rapidly.

**Summary**

The LOI requests the Assistant Secretary's direction to the Sacramento District commander to enter into two Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs)—one for federal activity support and one for USACE technical assistance—to support the Section 203 study. SEWD is prepared to provide all funds and resources necessary. The LOI is addressed to Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Adam R. Telle and is copied to key USACE leadership and Representative Josh Harder (CA-9).


**Financial Impact**

Submission of the LOI has no direct financial impact. Cost obligations will arise upon execution of Memorandums of Agreement with USACE following approval of the LOI by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). Study costs will be brought back to the Board for review and approval prior to execution of any agreement.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Board authorize the Board President to execute and submit the attached Letter of Intent to Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Adam R. Telle requesting approval to undertake the Farmington Dam Feasibility Study under Section 203 of WRDA 1986.

**Staff Responsible for Report**

  
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Justin M. Hopkins, General Manager

Date: 04/28/26

**Attachments**

1. Draft Letter of Intent



**STOCKTON  
EAST WATER  
DISTRICT**

PROVIDING SERVICE SINCE 1948  
www.sewd.net

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April 28, 2026

The Honorable Mr. Adam R. Telle  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

**RE: Request to Undertake Farmington Dam Feasibility Study Under Section 203 of WRDA 1986**

Dear Secretary Telle,

The Stockton East Water District (SEWD) respectfully requests your approval to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study to investigate modifications to Farmington Dam for improved flood risk management and to support water supply recharge and storage, pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. This request is made in furtherance of the study authorization enacted in Section 201(b)(2) of WRDA 2024 (H.R. 8812), which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to conduct a feasibility study for modifications to the project for flood control and other purposes, Calaveras River and Littlejohn Creek and tributaries, California, authorized by section 10 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (chapter 665, 58 Stat. 902).

Eastern San Joaquin County faces a persistent and worsening water supply crisis driven by groundwater overdraft, intensifying drought, and increasing climate variability. The region's agricultural economy, which supports tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in output and ranks among the top agricultural producing counties in California—depends on reliable water access. Years of over-pumping have lowered groundwater levels, threatening wells, water quality, land subsidence, and saline intrusion into the groundwater basin. The Farmington Reservoir Project is identified in the Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan (2026) as a foundational component of the region's long-term climate adaptation strategy. All Tier 2 strategies under that Plan—including expanded surface water conveyance, groundwater recharge, forecast-informed reservoir operations, and floodwater-managed aquifer recharge—depend on implementation of this Project. Without it, the watershed's most significant climate adaptation benefits cannot be realized.

The proposed modifications would provide multiple interconnected regional benefits. The Project would create 60,000 acre-feet of permanent new water supply storage, benefiting more than 315,000 City of Stockton residents and supporting irrigation across approximately 140,000 acres of agricultural land. It would increase the capacity to recharge the overdrawn groundwater basin, reducing depletion, repelling saline intrusion, and protecting local water supplies and groundwater-dependent ecosystems in support of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance. The Project would also enable SEWD to perfect existing water rights and store unused Central Valley Project supplies when available, while preserving and enhancing environmental flows on the Calaveras River.

Pursuant to Section 203 of WRDA 1986, as amended, SEWD proposes to prepare an integrated feasibility report and environmental impact statement and submit it directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for review and transmittal to Congress for authorization. In undertaking this study, SEWD will require USACE to provide the increased technical and federal assistance afforded under WRDAs 2018, 2020, and 2024, including USACE's conduct of required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and Section 106 Tribal consultations.

To that end, SEWD requests your direction to enter into two Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs)—between the Department of the Army and SEWD—for the undertaking of federal activities and for the provision of USACE technical assistance to support the Section 203 study. SEWD requests that your direction be provided to the Sacramento District commander to enter into these agreements. SEWD is prepared to provide the funds and resources necessary to expedite this important work.

SEWD has discussed this study with the Sacramento District and there is a shared understanding of the importance of moving rapidly to conclude the Memoranda. A preliminary cost estimate from 2015 placed project costs at \$158 million, or approximately \$220 million in today's dollars, and SEWD welcomes partnership opportunities with USACE and other federal, state, and local stakeholders to advance this transformational project.

We appreciate your service and leadership in advancing critical water resources priorities. We welcome the opportunity to work with your office to expeditiously advance this feasibility study toward a meaningful water resources development project for our region. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you or your staff require any additional information to support this request.

Very respectfully,

Thomas McGurk  
President

cc:

Andrea Walker, CPRP, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
Felix S. Yeung, Program Manager – Strategic Planning and Alignment, Sacramento District

Colonel Robert McTighe, Commander, Sacramento District  
Representative Josh Harder, U.S. House of Representatives (CA-9)



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PROVIDING SERVICE SINCE 1948

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April 28, 2026

The Honorable Monique Limón  
President pro tempore  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 2200  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support For Appointment Of Vice Chair Dorene D'adamo To State Water Resources Control Board**

Dear Senator Limón,

Stockton East Water District (SEWD) would like to take this opportunity to express its strong support for the reappointment of Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo to the State Water Resources Control Board. SEWD's mission is to ensure sustainable groundwater, high quality drinking water, and supplemental surface water for agricultural use. The District supplies wholesale treated surface water, which is retailed to Stockton area customers by the California Water Service Company, the City of Stockton, and San Joaquin County. SEWD is also responsible for acquiring supplemental surface water supplies and developing water use practices that help to secure a balance between the District's surface water and groundwater in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin. We appreciate the role Ms. D'Adamo has played through the years in supporting sustainable groundwater management and the important role groundwater recharge plays in helping to replenish groundwater aquifers in this state.

While working as a congressional aide for Congressman Dennis Cardoza, Ms. D'Adamo was instrumental in the congressman's efforts to secure \$25 million in federal funding for groundwater recharge and conjunctive use projects in SEWD. She was also helpful in securing support from the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Farmington Groundwater Recharge and Seasonal Habitat Study, which led to the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Program. Our region has been challenged by lowering groundwater levels, leading to the designation of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin as being in critical overdraft. The Farmington Recharge Program has proven to be a key strategy in the basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plans to reverse overdraft of the basin and address land subsidence, saltwater intrusion, and water quality impacts in order to bring the basin into sustainability under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Ms. D'Adamo's strong support for groundwater recharge has continued during her tenure on the Board. We appreciate the support of the Board to provide additional pathways for groundwater recharge. Agencies now have the opportunity to divert high flows for groundwater recharge without the need to obtain a water right permit when surface water flows are at or near flood levels. The Board also has created a pathway for temporary permits for groundwater recharge, providing for 180-day and 5-year temporary permits. SEWD has taken advantage of the temporary permit pathway, obtaining the approval of three temporary 180-day permits in 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25, and has transitioned to a 5-year temporary permit in 2025. The 5-year permit provides consistency and eliminates the need for SEWD to reapply for an application

and go through the application process each year, providing the District with the opportunity to take advantage of storm events throughout the 5-year period. Ms. D'Adamo has continually been a leader for these and other actions the Board has taken to provide flexibility so agencies can be ready to capture high storm flows and replenish groundwater aquifers when the opportunity presents itself.

Again, we strongly support Ms. D'Adamo's continued service on the Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas McGurk  
President

Draft

<b>Weekly Water Report</b>	As of:	As of:	
	April 21, 2026	April 28, 2026	
<b>New Hogan (NHG) TOC</b>	<b>282,406</b>	<b>294,091*</b>	<b>AF</b>
Storage:	211,699	213,086*	AF
Net Storage Change:	+1,650	+1,387	AF
Inflow:	92	151*	CFS
Release:	34	115*	CFS
<b>New Melones (NML) Allocation</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>AF</b>
Storage:	1,861,078	1,870,734*	AF
Net Storage change:	-22,862	+9,656	AF
Inflow:	2,177	1,414*	CFS
Release:	1,520	814**	CFS
<b>Source: CDEC Daily Reports</b>			

<b>Goodwin Diversion (GDW)</b>			
Inflow (Tulloch Dam):	1,527	896	CFS
Release to Stanislaus River (S-98):	555	952	CFS
Release to OID (JT Main):	461	336	CFS
Release to SSJID (SO Main):	105	165	CFS
Release to SEWD & CSJWCD:	<u>0</u>	<u>31</u>	CFS
Total Release	1,121	1,484	CFS
<b>Source: Tri-Dam Operations Daily Report</b>			
<b>Farmington Dam (FRM)</b>			
Diverted to SEWD:	0	30	CFS
Diverted to CSJWCD:	0	0	CFS

<b>Surface Water Used</b>			
Irrigators on New Hogan:	0	0	
Irrigators on New Melones:	0	0	
Out-Of-District Irrigators:	0	0	
DJWWTP Production:	32	36	MGD
North Stockton:	7	6	MGD
South Stockton:	6	6	MGD
Cal Water:	14	20	MGD
City of Stockton DWSP Production:	10	13	MGD

<b>District Ground Water Extraction</b>			
74-01	0	0	GPM
74-02	0	0	GPM
North	625	620	GPM
South	1,520	1,530	GPM
Extraction Well # 1	2,530	2,560	GPM
Extraction Well # 2	<u>3,250</u>	<u>3,230</u>	GPM
Total Well Water Extraction	7,925	7,940	GPM
Total Ground Water Production	11	11	MGD

**Note: \*\*The data reported here is available as of 04/26/26**

**\*The data reported here is available as of 04/27/26**

**All other flow data reported here is preliminary, as of 9:00 a.m. on 04/28/26**