



June 6, 2025

The Honorable Vince Fong  
243 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20003

**RE: Support for the South Valley Conveyance and Storage Project**

Dear Representative Fong:

The South Orange County Economic Coalition, the leading voice of business in our region, is pleased to voice its support of the Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) and Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District's (Rosedale) South Valley Conveyance and Storage Project (South Valley Project) and respectfully request your consideration for federal funding for the project.

The South Valley Project is an innovative groundwater storage project that will provide water supply reliability for Kern County and an emergency supply of water for Orange County, California, through better capture, storage, and management of surplus Central Valley Project (CVP), State Water Project (SWP) supplies. The overall project will build new conveyance and new groundwater bank within the Kern Fan area of the Ken County Groundwater Basin, and be operated jointly by IRWD and Rosedale to capture, recharge and store water available during wet years. Stored groundwater recovered from the project will supply local demands instead of exporting water from the Delta, and the project would provide both public and non-public benefits.

The South Valley Project will not only provide regional and state benefits, such as improved local groundwater conditions, increased drought resiliency during periods when other supplies may be reduced or interrupted that helps mitigate the impact of climate change, enhanced agricultural water supply reliability and preservation of productive agriculture acres, but will also provide significant federal environmental benefits and benefits to federal water operations.

The South Valley Project meets water supply security needs while, at the same time, producing important ecological and agricultural benefits. For these reasons, it is a strong candidate for federal funding, and we urge your support to achieve those goals.

Thank you for carefully considering the South Valley Conveyance and Storage Project for federal funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Hernandez".

Victoria Hernandez  
South Orange County Economic Coalition