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April 13, 2020

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 3005 (R. Rivas) Expedited Dam Safety for Silicon Valley Act -- SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Rivas,

On behalf of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County, I would like to express our strong support for your bill, AB 3005, which will expedite the expert removal and replacement of the Leroy Anderson Dam and Reservoir. Located in the hills above Silicon Valley, this dam has been determined by dam safety officials to be vulnerable to damage during a 6.6 magnitude earthquake and failure with a 7.25 quake. The failure of Anderson Dam at full capacity would result in catastrophic losses of life and property, inundating an area that includes several cities across Santa Clara County and cities to the south, all the way to the Monterey Bay. The social and economic costs would be felt immediately at the local and regional levels.

AB 3005 will help ensure the state does its part to expeditiously eliminate the risk of a devastating loss of life, property, and thousands of job-creating Silicon Valley businesses. The bill smartly authorizes the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (Anderson Project) to use the "Best Value" method of contractor selection. A project of this size and importance should be awarded to the most qualified contractors offering the best value, and not necessarily to the lowest bidder. In matters of public safety, expert construction is critical.

This bill also requires expedited judicial review of challenges to environmental documents issued in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This is the same treatment afforded to selected sports arenas and the new legislative office building in Sacramento, none of which have the urgent public safety benefits of this project. Because court delays would increase the risk to public safety, it makes sense that these provisions apply to the Anderson Project.

Another critical component of delivering the Anderson Project's public safety, water supply, and flood protection benefits is the timely issuance of state permits. AB 3005 sets reasonable deadlines for state permit issuance, helping to ensure construction starts promptly after design and CEQA review are completed. Not only will the Anderson Project protect our residents and businesses from inundation and destruction, this project will create 5,400 good paying jobs with an economic impact multiplied across the California economy.

Cities Association of Santa Clara County thanks you for authoring AB 3005, and urges your colleagues in the Legislature to support, and Governor Newsom to sign, this critically important bill to protect Silicon Valley from the devastating impacts of dam failure during an earthquake.

Sincerely,



Larry Klein  
President  
Mayor, City of Sunnyvale



Neysa Fligor  
Chair, Legislative Action Committee  
Vice-Mayor, City of Los Altos

cc: Assemblymembers: Kalra, Chu, Berman, Low, Stone  
Senators: Wieckowski, Beall, Hill, Monning  
Valley Water Board of Directors, Board@valleywater.org  
Rachael Gibson, Valley Water

*About: The Cities Association of Santa Clara County is a collaboration of the fifteen cities of the county and addresses pressing issues of mutual interest for our region. The Association is comprised of the elected representatives of over 1.9 million Bay Area residents. Our diverse community includes cities with a few thousand residents to a large city with a million people. Finding consensus and solutions remains our goal.*