

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 11, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 7**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Machado**  
(Coauthor: Senator Johnston)

February 24, 1997

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to Friant Dam.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 7, as amended, Machado. Friant Dam.

This measure would memorialize Congress and the President of the United States to authorize and fund a prompt evaluation of the *physical* potential for, *and economic feasibility of*, raising Friant Dam and making use of the increased capacity to help meet flood protection and water supply needs for the citizens of this state, *without impairing the existing rights of, and benefits to, and without altering the costs to, the current users of the waters of the San Joaquin River.*

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On the evening of January 2, 1997, inflows  
2 at Millerton Lake, behind Friant Dam, surged from 22,441  
3 cubic feet per second to 95,040 cubic feet per second in  
4 seven hours; and

5 WHEREAS, Millerton Lake storage peaked at a record  
6 530,452 acre-feet, nearly 10,000 acre-feet above capacity,  
7 on January 3, 1997; and



1 WHEREAS, Widespread flooding followed along the  
2 San Joaquin River below Friant Dam; and

3 WHEREAS, The resultant flooding partially washed  
4 out bridges linking the Counties of Fresno and Madera as  
5 well as homes and the Friant Fish Hatchery; and

6 WHEREAS, Downstream levee breaks flooded  
7 thousands of acres of farmland; and

8 WHEREAS, The yield of the San Joaquin River system  
9 is currently overcommitted with respect to meeting  
10 obligations to contractors, fisheries, and the water quality  
11 concerns of downstream water users; and

12 *WHEREAS, The waters of the San Joaquin River, as*  
13 *impounded by the Friant Dam, are currently put to*  
14 *beneficial use serving some of the most productive small*  
15 *family farms in the nation in the water-short Friant*  
16 *Division of the federal Central Valley Project; and*

17 *WHEREAS, Diversions from the San Joaquin River*  
18 *have resulted in diminished water quality for*  
19 *downstream users, particularly those on the lower San*  
20 *Joaquin River; and*

21 WHEREAS, California's population is projected to  
22 increase by 20 million residents in the next 25 years,  
23 particularly in the Central Valley region of the state,  
24 *thereby* placing further demands on the state's ability to  
25 provide flood protection as well as an adequate water  
26 supply; and

27 WHEREAS, The increasing difficulty of meeting these  
28 various, sometimes competing, needs gives cause to  
29 review the feasibility of raising Friant Dam to help meet  
30 those needs by building on the existing investment on the  
31 San Joaquin River; and

32 WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Reclamation  
33 reconnaissance studies conducted in 1952, 1975, and 1982  
34 attest to the physical, *but not the economic*, feasibility of  
35 raising Friant Dam; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*  
37 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of  
38 California respectfully memorializes the President and  
39 the Congress of the United States to authorize and fund  
40 a prompt evaluation of the ~~potential for~~ *physical potential*



1 *for, and economic feasibility of, raising Friant Dam and*  
2 *making use of the increased capacity to help meet flood*  
3 *protection and water supply needs for the citizens of this*  
4 *state, without impairing the existing rights of, and*  
5 *benefits to, and without altering the costs to, the current*  
6 *users of the waters of the San Joaquin River; and be it*  
7 *further*

8 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
9 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and  
10 Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the  
11 Interior, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
12 and each Senator and Representative from California in  
13 the Congress of the United States.

