

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 82

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

[Filed with Secretary of State July 28, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 7, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, California's population is projected to increase by 20 million residents in the next 25 years, particularly in the Central Valley region of the state, thereby placing further demands on the



state's ability to provide flood protection as well as an adequate water supply; and

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

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

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress 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 ; and be it further

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

