

California State Senate

SENATE MINORITY LEADER BRIAN W. JONES
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



May 16, 2023

Sweetwater Authority Board of Directors
C/O Chair Hector Martinez

RE: Letter of Support for the Recreational Use of the Loveland Reservoir

Dear Chair Martinez,

I am writing today in support of restoring public access as well as recreational access to the Loveland Reservoir, especially as it relates to the fishing opportunities that this reservoir provided.

I have learned that residents from Alpine, Jamul, and the other surrounding neighborhoods are enthusiastic about having this reservoir in their backyard, and are eager to be able to use it as they have in the past. I would like to encourage the Sweetwater Authority to work with the Cleveland National Forest to develop solutions to allow for the public to be able to access the reservoir as I understand that there are challenges with long standing easement agreements. I want to offer my office as a means to help facilitate those conversations or work toward additional solutions that ensure our mutual constituents can continue to have access to the lake for the recreational activity that fits their needs. Furthermore, I am happy to facilitate discussions with State Agencies that may play a role in this unfortunate closure of Loveland to the public for certain recreational activities. Whether those agencies are the Division Safety of Dams, Water Resources Control Board or the Department of Fish and Wildlife my office stands ready to work to break down barriers that limit our mutual constituent's access to recreational activities they once enjoyed. In fact, I want to encourage the district to explore options to restock the reservoir with fish by working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

It is my understanding that there are numerous ecological, psychological, and recreational benefits to keeping the reservoir open. While the residents of Alpine and Jamul are much closer to the Reservoir, I have heard that there are residents from as far as 32nd Street Naval Base who visit the lake on a regular basis. In some instances I have learned these are father and son teams who enjoy spending time together in the outdoors, and other times there are veterans with PTSD who find the hiking and fishing opportunities therapeutic.

As the Senator for California's 40th District and an avid outdoorsman, I am grateful for our expansive back country and the unique beauty we have in our County. It is my hope that the residents of San Diego County will be able to access this reservoir and the benefits it provides for many years to come and I want to assist in helping ensure my constituents have the access to public lands as I do believe public lands should open to public use.

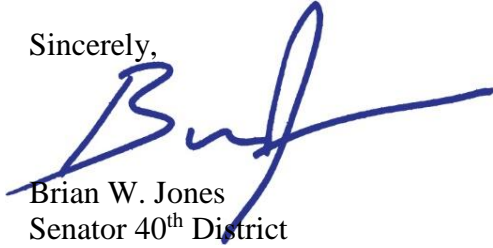
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Again, if I can be of service to you in identifying solutions and facilitating communication with stakeholders to ensure continued access to cherished recreational activities, do not hesitate to reach out to my District office and 619-596-3136.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Jones
Senator 40th District

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