



Delaware River Basin Commission

25 State Police Drive

PO Box 7360

West Trenton, New Jersey

08628-0360

Phone: (609) 883-9500 Fax: (609) 883-9522

Web Site: <http://www.drbc.net>

Steven J. Tambini, P.E.

Executive Director

April 11, 2017

Lt. Colonel Michael A. Bliss
Philadelphia District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wanamaker Building
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RE: F. E. Walter Re-evaluation Study

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Bliss:

Our understanding is that USACE is planning to investigate the current authorized purposes of the F.E. Walter Reservoir and to develop recommendations for future or optimized uses. This is the next step following the District's Initial Assessment Report that was prompted by stakeholder interests in additional and alternate uses for F.E. Walter storage.

As the regional agency charged with the management of the Delaware River Basin's water resources, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is interested in efforts to improve and optimize the use of existing storage facilities and is well known for its ability to convene stakeholder groups and organize their collaboration. The proposed F.E. Walter Re-evaluation Study will provide valuable information to our study request for the *Optimization of Federal Reservoir Storage and Use in the Delaware River Basin for the More Beneficial Use of Water Resources*, submitted to the USACE in December 2014. In addition, it will identify possibilities for consideration in the proposed Delaware River Watershed Study, which will develop a comprehensive plan for use of all USACE reservoirs, and possibly others, in the basin. With that in mind, as the Executive Director of the DRBC, I am writing to express our willingness to serve as the non-Federal Sponsor for the F.E. Walter Re-evaluation Study based upon the brief descriptions of the project provided to us.

The DRBC understands that the study will not be conducted unless federal funds are appropriated and there is a non-federal cost-sharing sponsor. As a sponsor, DRBC may be able to provide in-kind services and/or serve as the lead agency coordinating match contributions of funds and in-kind services from multiple stakeholder groups and agencies. As always, participation is contingent upon approval by the DRBC Commissioners, existing work load and resources, as well as agreement between the District and DRBC on scope and the Project Management Plan.

We are confident that we can work together with USACE and various stakeholder interests to evaluate the existing and future uses of F.E. Walter storage and we would encourage support for

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the development of plans to optimize and maximize the beneficial use of all other valuable USACE Delaware River Basin resources.

Please let me know how else DRBC can support your request for funding of this project, which will provide important information for other basin-wide planning and resiliency studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stambini", with a large, stylized initial "S" that loops around the start of the name.

Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
Executive Director