

DEC 06 2005

00003

**Statement of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
In Support of the South Delta Improvements Program**

Presented December 6, 2005, by Steve Hall, Executive Director

Introduction

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is a statewide organization whose members include 440 public water agencies. As the local agencies responsible for delivering water to communities, farms and businesses throughout the state, ACWA members have a unique perspective on our state's changing water needs and a keen interest in addressing them.

Earlier this year, ACWA released a comprehensive water policy document that laid out 12 recommendations for ensuring California has the water supply system it will need to meet its diverse needs in the coming decades. The document, titled "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water," was developed over the course of a year by a statewide task force and reflects the on-the-ground experiences and insight of individuals who are on the front lines of meeting Californians' water needs.

ACWA's Blueprint was submitted to the Schwarzenegger Administration in May and has been widely distributed to state and federal lawmakers, policy makers and other state and local officials.

Delta Improvements Needed

Some of the most urgent recommendations in ACWA's Blueprint concern the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a critical link in California's water supply system and one of the most important ecosystems on the West Coast.

It is increasingly clear that the Delta is not sustainable long-term as an ecosystem or as a water conveyance system. Improvements are badly needed to increase the flexibility of the existing system and to enhance water supply, water quality, levee stability and environmental protection. ACWA's blueprint report addresses that by calling for a comprehensive examination of the Delta at the highest levels of state government. We believe that such an effort will inevitably lead to a reconfiguration of the existing Delta in order to make it sustainable.

However, in the near term ACWA believes the actions proposed as part of the South Delta Improvements Program will provide needed flexibility in the existing system and mark a major step toward securing a more reliable supply of high-quality water for California's future.

The South Delta Improvements Program, as proposed by the California Department of Water Resources, is a responsible step toward accomplishing that goal. The SDIP includes a combination of actions to make the existing system work more efficiently with

ACWA-1

DEC 06 2005

00003
ACWA Statement / Page 2

the promise of improving water quality, water supply reliability and environmental protection in the near term.

The SDIP is one of the most important elements of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, a comprehensive effort long supported by ACWA members to resolve water supply reliability and ecosystem problems in the Bay-Delta. The August 2000 CALFED Record of Decision called for a coordinated set of actions such as those in the SDIP to improve water supply, water quality, levee stability and ecosystem restoration. In short, the SDIP is the next step toward better managing the Delta to meet the needs of water users and key species.

ACWA supports full implementation of the SDIP because it offers multiple benefits to Californians. Specifically, the SDIP:

ACWA-1

- Provides a powerful tool for improving Delta operations by adding the flexibility to shift Delta pumping from fish-sensitive, drier periods to times when it is more environmentally sound.
- Is an important first step in the Delta Improvements Program (DIP), which will provide for significant improvements in water quality, both for drinking water purposes and other in-Delta uses. We urge the Department to move quickly to implement the features of the DIP that will provide water quality benefits and we remind the Department that federal law requires those features in order to achieve the full benefits of the actions envisioned in the CALFED Record of Decision
- Provides substantial new protections for anadromous species such as salmon and other in-Delta species by installing seasonal gates to enhance water quality and circulation.
- Improves conditions for some in-Delta water users and takes important first steps to improve water quality upstream in the San Joaquin River.

ACWA urges the Department of Water Resources to move forward with the entire SDIP package, including the proposed increase in permitted pumping capacity at the State Water Project's South Delta facilities. Only by implementing the entire suite of tools envisioned in the SDIP can the program meet its full potential to improve water quality and water supply reliability and reduce conflicts in the Delta. ACWA also urges the Department to proceed with the DIP, so that the water quality as well as water supply benefits can be realized.

ACWA members believe it is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies. We must take a responsible, balanced approach to addressing our water resource needs that considers all of California's diverse, often competing, interests. The SDIP is a key element in such a balanced approach.

DEC 06 2005

00003

ACWA Statement / Page 3

Long-Term Approach Also Needed

As the SDIP and DIP move forward, we urge the Schwarzenegger Administration to move forward with that approach by appointing a high-level commission to evaluate the Delta's long-term vulnerability and recommend actions to reduce risks to the state's water supply and the environment.

It is only through this combination of short-term actions, in conjunction with a long-term plan, can we make the Delta, the heart of California's water system, viable and sustainable for the future.

Responses to Comments

ACWA-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter BVID

Browns Valley Irrigation District
Post Office Box 6, Browns Valley, CA 95918

DEC 22 2005

00011

BVID

Business Office:
530/743-5703
FAX:
530/743-0445
Water Operations Office:
530/742-6044

December 8, 2005

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of Browns Valley Irrigation District, I am writing today to express our agency's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

Browns Valley Irrigation District recognizes the need to increase the water delivery system reliability for areas within the Sacramento Valley, as well as for Statewide purposes.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water

BVID-1

DEC 22 2005

000011

supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

BVID-1

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Walter Cotter
General Manager
Browns Valley Irrigation District

DEC 22 2005

00011

cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of
Reclamation
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Association of California Water Agencies
Browns Valley Irrigation District Board of Directors

Responses to Comments

BVID-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter CMWD

TED GRANDSEN DIVISION 1		CMWD WILLIAM R. SEAVER, VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION 5
GAIL L. PRINGLE, DIRECTOR DIVISION 4		DONALD G. HAUSER, SECRETARY DIVISION 3
JEFFREY A. BORENSTEIN, TREASURER DIVISION 2		DONALD R. KENDALL, Ph.D., P.E. GENERAL MANAGER

web site: www.calleguas.com

2100 OLSEN ROAD • THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91360-6800 805/526-9323 • FAX: 805/522-5730 • FAX: 805/526-3675

February 6th, 2006

FEB 06 2006 00143

Lester Snow
Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program – EIS/EIR

Dear Director Snow:

I am writing on behalf of Calleguas Municipal Water District to register our support for the staged environmental review process that you have pursued for the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP) EIS/EIR which allows for the advancement of the structural components of the project (Stage 1) while additional information is gathered for the operational component (Stage 2). In this way, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) can begin to resolve the environmental concerns in the Delta that threaten the operation of the State Water Project and adapt the project accordingly.

It is our hope that Stage 1 of the SDIP, through the construction of operable fish and flow gates, will measurably improve fish passage and water quality for the benefit of the fisheries and the Delta ecosystem in general. While these measures alone may not halt the recent decline of the pelagic fish species in the Delta, combined with ongoing scientific research commissioned by DWR, they may contribute to an operational solution that can be incorporated into Stage 2 of the project.

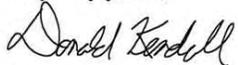
The Delta, as the hub of California's water supply, sits precariously vulnerable to dramatic geologic shifts and hydrologic changes that could have long-range impacts on the State's water resources. Because Calleguas depends on the State Water Project for 100% of its supply, our reliability depends on an assured, secure Delta delivery system. In fact, we are more concerned with the reliability of our existing deliveries than with increasing exports from the Delta. However, we do see merit in enhancing the system's operational flexibility, if it can help us to avoid species impacts that might jeopardize our supply.

Director Lester Snow
February 6, 2006
Page 2

FEB 06 2006 00143

In short, we encourage you to move forward with the Stage 1 of the SDIP and support your vigorous pursuit of a scientific resolution to the pelagic fish decline. In addition, we would urge you to watch for other environmental signals that may suggest alternative engineering and operational approaches to Delta water deliveries that may better address our needs.

Very truly yours,



Donald R. Kendall, Ph.D., P.E.
General Manager

cc: Paul Marshall, SDIP EIS/EIR Commits
Senator Sheila Kuehl
Senator Tom McClintock
Assembly Member Fran Pavley
Assembly Member Keith Richman
Assembly Member Audra Strickland
Debra Man, CEO & General Manager of MWD of Southern California
Calleguas Board of Directors
Dee Zinke, Manager of Governmental and Legislative Affairs

Responses to Comments

The commenter's description of the project's water supply and environmental benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter CBMWD



CBMWD

Central Basin Municipal Water District

17140 S. Avalon Blvd • Suite 210 • Carson, CA 90746-1296

telephone 310-217-2222 • fax 310-217-2414

January 18, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Director Snow:

South Delta Improvements Program

On behalf of the Central Basin Municipal Water District (Central Basin), I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

Central Basin is a public agency that has been dedicated to providing a safe and adequate supplemental supply of high-quality water to its customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner anticipating future needs since 1952. Central Basin has worked diligently to drought-proof the region by providing alternative water supplies to meet the needs of municipal, commercial, and industrial users to help conserve the potable water supply.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high-quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so it is imperative that the use of our existing water resources and infrastructure is significantly improved; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, new and innovative ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system should be considered, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan for efficient utilizing and integrating our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly -- only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

CBMWD
-1



Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3 - 5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance -- it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

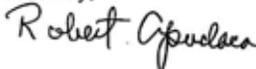
Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources; specifically, protecting fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association, and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California -- critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, Central Basin strongly supports SDIP and encourages all key stakeholders to facilitate advancement of this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



Robert Apodaca, President
Central Basin Municipal Water District

cc: (by facsimile)

Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S.B.R., (916) 978-5114
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

17140 S. Avalon Blvd • Suite 210 • Carson, CA 90746-1296



Responses to Comments

CBMWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter CBMWD

CBMWD

JAN 23, 2006 00222

January 18, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Director Snow:

South Delta Improvements Program

On behalf of the Central Basin Municipal Water District (Central Basin), I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

Central Basin is a public agency that has been dedicated to providing a safe and adequate supplemental supply of high-quality water to its customers in a planned, timely and cost-effective manner anticipating future needs since 1952. Central Basin has worked diligently to drought-proof the region by providing alternative water supplies to meet the needs of municipal, commercial, and industrial users to help conserve the potable water supply.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high-quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so it is imperative that the use of our existing water resources and infrastructure is significantly improved; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, new and innovative ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system should be considered, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan for efficient utilizing and integrating our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly -- only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

CBMWD
-1

JAN 23, 2006 00222

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3 - 5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance -- it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources; specifically, protecting fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association, and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California -- critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, Central Basin strongly supports SDIP and encourages all key stakeholders to facilitate advancement of this critically needed project.

Sincerely,

Robert Apodaca

Robert Apodaca, President
Central Basin Municipal Water District

cc: *(by facsimile)*

Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S.B.R., (916) 978-5114
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

CBMWD
-1

Responses to Comments

CBMWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter CLWA

DEC 22 2005

00020

L. SNOW
CLWA

**CASTAIC
L A K E**



**WATER
AGENCY**

December 6, 2005

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
State of California
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow:

On behalf of the Castaic Lake Water Agency, I am writing to express support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs.

The Agency is a State Water Project contractor, whose mission is providing a safe, reliable water supply at reasonable cost to the Santa Clarita Valley in southern California. The Agency wholesales SWP water to four retail purveyors in its service area, and the SWP supplies about half of the water demand in the area. Therefore, any improvements to the reliability of the SWP are supported by the Agency. We believe SDIP will result in such reliability improvements.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: we need a safe, reliable and high-quality water supply to keep up with our rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given water's importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and ecosystem, a unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies.

SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta. SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

DIRECTORS

E.G. "JERRY" GLADBACH
DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
WILLIAM C. COOPER
ROBERT J. DIPRIMO
WILLIAM PECSI
PETER KAVOUNAS
BARBARA DORE
THOMAS P. CAMPBELL
EDWARD A. COLLEY
JACQUELYN H. McMILLAN
R.J. KELLY

GENERAL MANAGER

DAN MASNADA

GENERAL COUNSEL

McCORMICK, KIDMAN &
BEHRENS, LLP

SECRETARY

APRIL JACOBS

CLWA-1

"A PUBLIC AGENCY PROVIDING RELIABLE, QUALITY WATER AT A REASONABLE COST TO THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY"

27234 BOUQUET CANYON ROAD • SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA 91350-2173 • 661 297-1600 FAX 661 297-1611
website address: www.clwa.org

DEC 22 2005 00020

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water but, until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when it is environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter-approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

CLWA-1

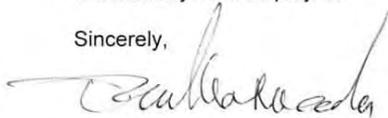
SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – it is critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



Dan Masnada
General Manager

cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

Responses to Comments

CLWA-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter CCWA

CCWA



February 1, 2006

FEB 09 2006 00141

Mr. Lester Snow
Director, California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Leo Trujillo
Chairman

Fred Lemere
Vice Chairman

William J. Brennan
Executive Director

Hatch & Parent
General Counsel

Member Agencies

City of Buellton

Carpinteria Valley
Water District

City of Guadalupe

City of Santa Barbara

City of Santa Maria

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

Santa Ynez River Water
Conservation District,
Improvement District #1

Associate Member

La Cumbre Mutual
Water Company

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow:

I am writing today on behalf of the Central Coast Water Authority, one of the twenty-nine State Water Contractors receiving water from the State Water Project, to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), one of several important projects designed to support California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

As you know, California is facing a critical water challenge. We must have a safe, reliable and high quality water supply if we are to keep up with our continuously increasing population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. We have limited water supplies in our arid State and we must use our water resources and infrastructure in the wisest and most efficient manner, otherwise we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its critical importance, we need to find the best ways to manage the Delta's water and water delivery system.

In 2000, the State and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta. SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our State's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project delivery rates to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the State is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the State's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for

CCWA-1

255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427-9565
(805) 688-2292
FAX: (805) 686-4700



31134

FEB 09 2006 00141

only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. Additionally, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the State greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections. Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association, and the Western Growers Association.

CCWA-1

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



William J. Brennan
Executive Director

WJB

cc (by facsimile):

Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S.B.R., (916) 978-5114
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

31134

Responses to Comments

CCWA-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment letter CoVWD

Dec-08-05 02:03pm From=WATER DISTRICT/COACHELLA VALLEY +7603983711 T-488 P.02/02 F-406
ESTABLISHED IN 1918 AS A PUBLIC AGENCY
 **CoVWD**
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
POST OFFICE BOX 1058 • COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA 92236 • TELEPHONE (760) 398-2651 • FAX (760) 398-3711

DIRECTORS:
PETER NELSON, PRESIDENT
PATRICIA A. JARSON, VICE PRESIDENT
TELLIS CODEKAS
JOHN W. McFADDEN
RUSSELL KITAHARA

OFFICERS:
STEVEN B. ROBBINS,
GENERAL MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER
MARK BEUHLER,
ASST. GENERAL MANAGER
JULIA FERNANDEZ, SECRETARY
DAN PARKS, ASSI. TO GENERAL MANAGER
REUWINE AND SHPRILL, ATTORNEYS

December 9, 2005

Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

DEC 23 2005 028

Dear Mr. Snow:

Coachella Valley Water District representatives fully support the Department of Water Resources' South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). This a critical water supply, water quality and environmental protection project that has been carefully crafted to meet our state's extremely diverse water needs.

Coachella Valley is among the many regions that benefit significantly from the availability of State Water Project water, so we have a keen interest in what takes place hundreds of miles away. CVWD and the Desert Water Agency rely upon this water for recharge of our aquifer. As a result, we have been able to return nearly two million acre-feet of water to our groundwater tables in a little more than three decades.

As conscientious members of the California community, CVWD's representatives also support projects that seek to include as many diverse elements in their benefits as possible. SDIP is such a program. Obviously, California is facing a critical challenge: The need for safe, reliable and high quality water supplies that keep up with the state's rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. Because existing water supplies are limited, however, enhanced and improved utilization of existing water resources and infrastructure are essential. Without such an approach, many communities, farms, businesses and the environment are at risk. Two-thirds of California receives at least some of its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, and the water itself, are needed.

This program is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. SDIP calls for only a three to five percent increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. It will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Again, CVWD representatives strongly support SDIP.

Yours very truly,

Steve Robbins,
General Manager-Chief Engineer

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game; Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency; Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority; Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Dan Skopce, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor; Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, ACWA, CMUA

TRUE CONSERVATION
USE WATER WISELY

CoVWD-1

Responses to Comments

CoVWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter CuVWD

12-14-05; 3:47PM;Cucamonga Water Dist ;909 476 5964 # 1 / 3

 **Cucamonga Valley Water District**

DEC 22 2005 *8 Johnson* **CuVWD**
00023

10440 Ashford Street • Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91729-0638
P.O. BOX 638 • (909) 987-2591 • Fax (909) 476-8032



Robert A. DeLoach
General Manager
Chief Executive Officer

December 12, 2005

Mr. Lester Snow
Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow:

On behalf of Cucamonga Valley Water District I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

The SDIP is important to the Cucamonga Valley Water District and the Inland Empire region. Our agency receives nearly 60% of our water supply from the Bay Delta region. We have worked hard over the years to decrease our dependency on imported water supplies and develop our local sources. However we will also have some degree of reliance on imported supplies to ensure water supply and reliability for our growing region and our customers.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

CuVWD-1

Henry L. Stoy President
James V. Curatalo, Jr. Vice President
Jerome M. Wilson Director
Randall James Reed Director
R. Robert Neufeld Director

Responses to Comments

CuVWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter DPWD

	DPWD ^{L. Snow} Johns Kathy Reedy
P.O. Box 1596 • Patterson, CA 95363-1596	Fax (209) 892-4469 • Phone (209) 892-4470
December 19, 2005	DEC 23 2005 035
<p>Mr. Lester Snow, Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001</p>	
<p>Re: South Delta Improvement Program</p>	
<p>Dear Director Snow,</p>	
<p>On behalf of Del Puerto Water District, I am writing to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs.</p>	
<p>The District, comprised of almost 45,000 acres of prime farmland located along the west side of Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced Counties, is under contract with the United States' Bureau of Reclamation for its water supply, which is delivered from the Delta-Mendota Canal, a feature of the Central Valley Project. The District's contractual entitlement is its sole source of water supply to its lands.</p>	
<p>For many years now we have been concerned about the District's water future and have committed ourselves to improving the long-term reliability of these supplies in an environmentally responsible manner. The SDIP offers a much needed help in this regard.</p>	
<p>As you know, the state is currently constrained in its ability to move available water supplies through the Delta. While infrastructure to move the water has been in place for many years, until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers are constrained from fully or responsibly utilizing the existing system. While SDIP calls for only a modest 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta, significantly and at the same time, it provides the increased flexibility needed to shift the timing of these improved water diversions to those times when it is environmentally safe. The SDIP will serve not only to improve water quality in the southern reaches of the Delta, it will help to protect those fish species that live in or pass through the Delta channels.</p>	
<p>We view the SDIP as a responsible and balanced plan that will better utilize and integrate the existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. It will undoubtedly improve the State's overall water supply reliability while improving both water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The SDIP provides a responsible and</p>	

DPWD-1

DEC 23 2005

035

balanced approach to addressing the long-term water resource needs of all of California's diverse social, economic and environmental interests.

Again, the Board of Directors, landowners and water users of the Del Puerto Water District strongly support South Delta Improvement Program and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



William D. Harrison, General Manager
DEL PUERTO WATER DISTRICT

DPWD-1

Cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

Responses to Comments

DPWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

Comment Letter DWA

<p>Ronald E. Starrs President F. Thomas Kieley, III Vice President F. Gillar Boyd, Jr. Secretary/Treasurer William "Bill" Byrne Patricia G. Oyggar</p>	 <p>DESERT WATER</p>	<p><i>L. Johnson</i> <i>2. K. Kelly</i> <i>L. SNOW</i></p> <p>DWA Desert Water Agency 1200 Gene Autry Trail South P.O. Box 1710 Palm Springs, CA 92263-1710 Telephone 760 323-4971 Fax 760 325-6505 www.dwa.org</p>
<p>David K. Luker General Manager Chief Engineer Best, Best & Krieger General Counsel Krieger & Stewart Consulting Engineers</p>	<p>FEB 09 2006 00170</p>	

January 31, 2006

Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: SOUTH DELTA IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Dear Director Snow:

On behalf of the Desert Water Agency, I am writing today to express the Agency's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

The Desert Water Agency was formed in 1961 to take part in the State Water Project (SWP) as a contractor. Since then, the Agency has added responsibilities for water, recycled, and wastewater services, and power generation. Ratepayers and taxpayers have invested heavily in the SWP by Contract, currently running through the year 2035. Reliable water deliveries from the Delta are essential to our SWP Contract and the water needs of our community.

California needs a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta.

DWA-1



Lester Snow, Director
Dept. of Water Resources

Page 2

January 31, 2006

FEB 09 2006

66170

More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter-approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Desert Water Agency strongly supports the SDIP and encourages all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

DWA-1

Thank you,

DESERT WATER AGENCY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Luker".

David K. Luker
General Manager-Chief Engineer

DKL/jlt

cc (fax): Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (961) 653-7387
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, (916) 978-5114
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358
Mr. Bob Reeb, Reeb Government Relations, (916) 558-1932

Responses to Comments

DWA-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.