Comment Letter DRWD

DRWD

DUDLEY RIDGE WATER DISTRICT

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LEGAL COUNSEL
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DEC 2 3 2005

033

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 Dudley Ridge Water District (DRWD), I am writing today to express our district'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.

DRWD is an agricultural water district, solely dependent on the State Water Project (SWP) for its surface water supply. We do not have a useable groundwater supply, so increased reliability of SWP water is critical to our district's survival.

DRWD-1

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe and reliable 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. As you know 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 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 SWP deliveries to increase modestly when it is environmentally safe to do so.

DEC 2 3 2005 033

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use water supplies that are surplus to operational needs. The State has 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 a starting point for California water interests to advance. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

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. DRWD-1

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.

Respectfully,

Dale K. Melville, Manager-Engineer
Dudley Ridge Water District

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
Dudley Ridge Water District Board of Directors
Mr. Gary W. Sawyers, Esq.
Mr. Terry Erlewine, State Water Contractors

Responses to Comments

DRWD-1

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

Comment Letter EMWD

12/12/05 16:19:28 → 9166536985 EMWD Page 002

EMWD

DEC 2 3 2005

026

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
SINCE 1950

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Legal Counsel
Redwine & Sherrill

December 12, 2005

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
State of California
Sacramento, CA 925814

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow:

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) continues to support the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a series of efforts which collectively will improve California's water supply reliability, Delta ecosystem stability and Delta water quality.

EMWD encompasses 555 square miles in southwestern Riverside County, which is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. EMWD provides drinking water, wastewater collection and treatment, and recycled water service to a service area population of over 560,000. Local wells provide 20 percent of the District's water supply, with the remaining 80 percent imported through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. EMWD recognizes its responsibility to maximize water supply and realizes that water reused, conserved, or produced in the service area results in less water imported from northern California. EMWD-1

With limited water supplies in our state, it is critical to better utilize existing water resources and infrastructure. Until the SDIP is approved, the state will not be able to fully or responsibly utilize the existing system in the Delta. The SDIP will provide much needed flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when it is environmentally safe to do so. The SDIP is an ideal opportunity for the state to move forward, as it will not require constructing new infrastructure; and, Proposition 13 funding has already been secured for program financing.

We believe the SDIP protects critical Delta habitat while offering solutions for flexibility and improved water resource management. A more flexible water system in the Delta will produce significant benefits, including continued development of conjunctive use and seasonal storage programs by agencies like EMWD.

EMWD supports the SDIP and urges key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Pack
General Manager

Randy A. Record
President, Board of Directors

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 8300 Perris, CA 92572-8300 *Telephone:* (951) 928-3777 *Fax:* (951) 928-6177
Location: 2270 Trumble Road Perris, CA 92570 *Internet:* www.emwd.org

Responses to Comments

EMWD-1

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

Comment Letter FMWD

FMWD

FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
ALTADENA • La CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE • La CRESCENTA

JAN 3 0 2006 087

January 23, 2006

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 Foothill Municipal 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.

Foothill Municipal Water District is a supplemental supplier of imported water that supplies seven retail agencies serving 84,000 residents in unincorporated areas of Altadena, La Crescenta and the city of La Cañada Flintridge in the Los Angeles area. Imported water from the State Water Project is essential to the reliability and quality of their water supply. FMWD-1

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. 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 of this precious resource count.

4536 Hampton Road • P.O. Box 686 • La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91012-0686 (818) 790-4036 FAX (818) 790-9418

JAN 3 0 2006 087

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 deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

FMWD-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, 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.

JAN 3 0 2006 087

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project. FMWD-1

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Pecsi
General Manager
Foothill 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. 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

Responses to Comments

FMWD-1

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

Comment Letter FWA

FWA

~~L. SNOW~~
~~1 J Johns~~
~~2 K Kelly~~
Paul Marshall

FRIANT
WATER AUTHORITY

FEB 22 2006 000214

February 6, 2006

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Chairman of the Board

Eric A. Merz
Vice Chairman

Marvin L. Hughes
Secretary/Treasurer

Ronald D. Jacobsma
General Manager

D. Zackary Smith
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Exeter I.D.
Fresno I.D.
Ivanhoe I.D.
Kern-Tulare W.D.
Lindmore I.D.
Lindsay-Strathmore I.D.
Lower Tule River I.D.
Orange Cove I.D.
Pixley I.D.
Porterville I.D.
Rag Gulch I.D.
Saucelito I.D.
Shafter-Wasco I.D.
So. San Joaquin M.U.D.
Stone Corral I.D.
Tea Pot Dome W.D.
Terra Bella I.D.
Tulare I.D.

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

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

The Friant Water Authority (Authority) expresses support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical environmental, water supply and water quality project. In reviewing the EIR/S, the Authority believes that the contemplated infrastructure improvements and improved flexibility to utilize existing infrastructure provides significant environmental and water supply and quality improvements. The Authority does have comments and questions regarding proposed future operations and the potential impacts to fishery and water quality objectives for the San Joaquin River that we believe require further analysis in the EIR/S. Specific comments in that regard will be submitted separately by the San Joaquin River Group Authority of which the Authority is a member agency. FWA-1

The Authority operates and maintains the Friant-Kern Canal, a conveyance feature of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The Authority consists of twenty member water, irrigation and public utility districts receiving CVP water supplies from the Friant Division and/or as Cross Valley Contractors (pumped using State Water Project Facilities). The Friant Division of the CVP serves the agricultural water needs of some one million acres and 15,000 mostly small family farms on the east side of the southern San Joaquin Valley (Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern Counties). Friant Division water supplies are also relied upon by several cities and towns, including the cities of Fresno, Orange Cove and Lindsay, as a major portion of their municipal and industrial water supplies.

Implementation of the SDIP taking into account San Joaquin River water quality standards, dissolved oxygen objectives in the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel and operation of the Head of Old River gate to protect San Joaquin River salmon during migration reflects a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta.

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Sacramento Office
1521 I STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
PHONE: 916-441-1931
FAX: 916-441-1581

Mr. Lester Snow
February 6, 2006
Page 2

FEB 22 2006 000214

Again, we support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project. FWA-1

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Jacobsma
General Manager
Friant Water Authority

cc: (via fax/email)
Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Mr. Ryan Broddrick, Director, California
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, MP Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Friant Water Users Authority Member Districts
Mr. Allen Short, San Joaquin River Group Authority
Mr. Tom Birmingham, General Manger, Westland Water District
Mr. Tim Quinn, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Responses to Comments

FWA-1

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

Comment Letter KCWA1

KCWA1

February 7, 2006

FEB 07 2006 00158

Directors:
Fred L. Starrh
Division 1
Terry Rogers
Division 2
Peter Frick
Division 3
Michael Radon
Vice President
Division 4
Adrienne J. Mathews
Division 5
Lawrence P. Gallagher
President
Division 6
Gene A. Lundquist
Division 7

James M. Beck
General Manager
Amelia T. Minaberrigarai
General Counsel

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

RE: Comments on the South Delta Improvements Program Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Snow:

The Kern County Water Agency (Agency) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the South Delta Improvement Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/R). The Agency commends the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for issuing the EIS/R and supports implementing the project.

The EIS/R provides a solid analytical foundation and a well-reasoned basis for determining the project's potential environmental impacts. The following comments are made to assist DWR in identifying areas where the EIS/R can be clarified or strengthened.

Staged Decision Process

The EIS/R attempts to lay out a staged decision process intended to reduce the potential for environmental impacts by allowing a decision on the second stage of the project to occur after additional scientific data on the Delta's pelagic fisheries becomes available. This approach is a positive feature of the project but may be misleading to some stakeholder groups. The EIS/R provides the environmental analysis for both stages of the decision process. Comments or challenges to the second stage of the project will necessarily be based on the analysis in the EIS/R. Because much of that analysis does not distinguish between Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the project, stakeholders pursuing judicial challenges to the Stage 2 decision may seek to retroactively invalidate the Stage 1 decision by attacking the environmental analysis common to both decisions. The Department should clarify that the Stage 1 decision will not be revisited during the deliberations leading to a decision on Stage 2.

KCWA1-1

661/634-1400

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Street Address
3200 Rio Mirada Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93308

FEB 07 2006 00158

Accelerated Installation of Operable Gates Does Not Require Separate Mitigation
The CALFED Bay-Delta Record of Decision (CALFED ROD), dated August 28, 2000, was certified based on a comprehensive package of actions that included Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the EIS/R. In support of that certification, the environmental analysis performed for the CALFED ROD determined that increased pumping as described in Stage 2 of the EIS/R could precede installation of permanent operable barriers (now called operable gates and referred to as Stage 1 in the EIS/R) and precede portions of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program.

KCWA1-2

The EIS/R determination that Stage 1 requires mitigation separate from Stage 2 is inconsistent with the CALFED ROD. The CALFED ROD requires the installation of the gates prior to increasing pumping to 10,300 cfs, but not prior to increasing pumping to 8,500 cfs. The EIS/R does not adequately explain why the same operable gates which the CALFED ROD required to mitigate for pumping at 10,300 cfs, but not 8,500 cfs, are now required to provide mitigation for Stage 1 implementation when pumping will remain at current levels with very limited water quality, water level and fishery impacts. The EIS/R should provide an analysis of the changed water quality, water level and fishery impacts that make the environmental analysis of the CALFED ROD invalid for the purposes of Stage 1 of this EIS/R. This same analysis is applicable to Stage 2.

Existing Mitigation Not Credited Toward Potential Project Impacts
The EIS/R does not recognize the existing mitigation measures already in place to mitigate the potential environmental impacts that might result from implementation of Stage 1 or Stage 2.

Some actions have already been taken, or are proposed to be taken, that would provide mitigation in excess of that provided by the 1995 amendment to the 4 Pumps Agreement. These mitigation actions, which include the following, should be credited toward any mitigation obligation for Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the EIS/R.

KCWA1-3

- Implementation of the CALFED ERP (over 400 projects with expenditures exceeding $1 billion).[1]
- 50% of the "windfall" water available to the SWP under the CVPIA was dedicated to the EWA by the CALFED ROD. This water serves to support the ROD determination that impacts of the Conveyance Program are already mitigated by the ERP.[2]
- Providing 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) of pumping capacity July through September when pumping above 6,680 cfs is available which results in:
- Up to 60 TAF before SWP contractors may benefit; plus
- 30 TAF after 200 TAF has been provided for beneficial export uses.

[1] The CALFED MSCS states that the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy (MSCS) for the CALFED program ". . . addresses the potential adverse and beneficial effects on plant and animal species of all Program actions, including ERP actions and other Program actions such as levee system integrity, water storage, and water conveyance actions. Based in large part on the ERP, the MSCS' premise is that the Program as a whole, including all program elements, will improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta. The ERP, therefore, serves two purposes: 1) to achieve Program objectives for ecosystem restoration; and 2) to enable actions from all Program elements to be completed in compliance with FESA, CESA, and NCCPA."

[2] See Footnote 1.

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
February 7, 2006
Page 3 of 3

FEB 07 2006 00158

The EIS/R fails to consider or discuss how these existing mitigation activities are credited toward the potential environmental impacts of Stage 1 and Stage 2. As a result, it is likely that Stage 1 of the project is over mitigated and possible that Stage 2 also is over mitigated. KCWA1-3

Unbalanced Implementation of the CALFED Program Provides Surplus Mitigation
Recent review of the CALFED Program by the Department of Finance indicates that implementation of the CALFED ERP has outpaced implementation of other programs, including the conveyance program. This differential in implementation is a significant factor in the general consensus that the CALFED Program is unbalanced. The advanced degree of implementation for the ERP also results in greater environmental benefits to the South Delta ecosystem than originally anticipated when the CALFED ROD was certified. As a result, the "trajectory of recovery" exceeds what was included in the environmental analysis of the CALFED ROD because the conveyance projects were not implemented on schedule. The EIS/R does not adequately explain why greater than expected implementation of environmental programs under the CALFED ERP as compared to implementation of the CALFED Programs included in the EIS/R does not reduce the mitigation necessary for Stage 1 and Stage 2 projects. KCWA1-4

The Agency participated in the preparation of comments on the EIS/R submitted by the State Water Contractors, Inc. by letter dated February 7, 2006. The Agency agrees with and supports those comments and hereby incorporates them by reference.

The Agency appreciates the opportunity to comment on the EIS/R. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Mr. Brent Walthall of my staff.

Sincerely,

James M. Beck
General Manager

cc: State Water Contractors, Inc.

Responses to Comments

KCWA-1

Text in Chapter 2 of the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR has been modified per your comment.

KCWA-2

The gates themselves do not provide mitigation of Stage 1, in which the SWP exports are operated under existing rules and regulations. However, specific operations of the gates can result in improved conditions in the Delta for fish and diverters. DWR and Reclamation are committed to continuous improvements in the Delta, as called for in the CALFED ROD, and therefore are pursuing the implementation of Stage 1 regardless of what Stage 2 decisions are made.

KCWA-3 and KCWA-4

CALFED actions implemented specifically to improve habitats and the environment help to reduce the effects of the overall CALFED Program on these resources. However, CEQA and NEPA require lead agencies to identify and mitigate specifically for impacts on environmental resources resulting from a specific project. Therefore, specific mitigation of each specific impact resulting from the implementation of the SDIP is proposed. Although the ERP and other programs consistent with CALFED benefit the environment, DWR and Reclamation do not commit to them as specific measures they will implement to mitigate effects of the ADIP, and therefore these measures are not credited toward the SDIP.

Comment Letter KCWA2

KCWA2

01/12/2006 08:19 FAX 661 634 1428 KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY 002

JAN 12 2006 051

January 9, 2006

Directors:
Fred L. Starrh
Division 1
Terry Rogers
Division 2
Peter Frick
Division 3
Michael Radon
President
Division 4
Adrienne J. Mathews
Division 5
Lawrence P. Gallagher
Division 6
Gene A. Lundquist
Vice President
Division 7

James M. Beck
General Manager
Amelia T. Minaberrigarai
General Counsel

661/634-1400

Mailing Address
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Street Address
3200 Rio Mirada Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93308

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

RE: South Delta Improvements Program Environmental Impact Report

Dear Director Snow,

The Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) supports the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) efforts to implement the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) as one component of the overall Conveyance Program described in the CalFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision. KCWA believes that the timely implementation of the SDIP will increase permitted pumping rates at Banks Pumping Plant and will allow DWR to strike the appropriate balance between increasing the state's water supplies and protecting its Delta fishery.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the 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. The SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta. KCWA2-1

DWR recently issued a draft Environmental Impact Report for the SDIP to support installation of permanent operable gates and the potential operation of those gates to increase water supplies. KCWA staff is reviewing that document and will provide comments to DWR in early February. While we expect to provide you with significant comments, our comments do not diminish our general support for full implementation of the SDIP. We urge you to move forward with the necessary environmental documentation and subsequent implementation of this important project.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies that occur at times when environmental impacts are low. The infrastructure to move the water is already in place, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully use the existing system. The SDIP will increase the average amount of water pumped from the Delta by just 3-5 percent. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries to periods when surplus is available and 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.

Jan 12 2006 2:25PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.15

01/12/2006 08:19 FAX 661 634 1428 KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY 003

Mr. Lester Snow
January 9, 2006
Page 2 of 2

JAN 12 2006 051

And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

The SDIP is supported by a broad, statewide 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. KCWA2-1

The Kern County Water Agency strongly supports the SDIP and encourages all stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James M. Beck

cc: Mr. Ryan Brodderick,
Mr. Mike Chrisman
Mr. Joe Grindstaff
Mr. Kirk Rodgers
Mr. Dan Skopec

Jan 12 2006 2:25PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.16

Responses to Comments

KCWA2-1

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

Comment Letter KDWD

KDWD

JAN 03 2006 038

Kern Delta Water District
501 TAFT HIGHWAY
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93307-6247
TELEPHONE (661) 834-4656
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Attorneys-at-Law
Boyle Engineering
Consulting Engineers

December 22, 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 Kern Delta 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.

KDWD -1

Kern Delta Water District relies on a combination of water supplies from the Kern River, the State Water project, and the groundwater basin underlying its service area. One of the District's goals is to stabilize and maximize the amount of surface water coming into the District and reduce the use of groundwater as much as possible.

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 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

12/22/2005

JAN 03 2006 038

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).

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. KDWD -1

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,

L. Mark Mulkay
General Manager
Kern Delta Water District
661-834-4656

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. 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

12/22/2005

Responses to Comments

KDWD-1

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

Comment Letter KTWD

Feb. 7. 2006 12:08PM Kern Tulare/Ras Gulch Water dist No.0429 P. 1/1

KERN-TULARE Water District

KTWD

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FEB 07 2006 00154

February 7, 2006

Sharon McHale
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Division of Planning
Via Fax: (916) 978-5094

Paul Marshall
State of California
Department of Water Resources
Via Fax: (916) 653-6077

Subject: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Ms. McHale and Mr. Marshall:

Kern-Tulare Water District has reviewed the draft EIS/EIR for the South Delta Improvements Program and finds it to provide an adequate evaluation of environmental impacts. We consider the Program to be beneficial and important in effectively managing water supplies in the delta. KTWD-1

We recognize that DWR has worked hard to develop this EIS/EIR for the South Delta Improvements Program and respectfully urge DWR to certify the EIS/EIR and move forward to implement the Program.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Dalke
General Manager

DISTRICT OFFICE 5001 California Avenue, Suite 202 Bakersfield, CA 93309 Phone (661) 327-3361 Fax (661) 327-2724
OPERATIONS Route 2, Box 183 Delano, CA 93215 Phone (661) 725-0176 Fax (661) 725-8805

Responses to Comments

KTWD-1

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

Comment Letter LVMWD

12/14/2005 11:33 FAX 8182512218 LAS VIRGENES WATER 001/001

LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Dedicated to Providing Quality Water & Wastewater Service

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www.lvmwd.com

MEMBER AGENCY OF THE
METROPOLITAN WATER
DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

LVMWD

DEC 22 2005 00023

December 13, 2005

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

RE: Support – South Delta Improvement Program

Dear Director Snow:

On behalf of the 65,000 customers served by our agency, I ask that favorable consideration be given to proceeding with the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP) currently being reviewed by your agency.

SDIP takes a balanced approach in responding to the Delta's fragile ecosystems, while ensuring adequate water supplies both for agriculture and California's expanding population.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is totally dependent on Delta water resources. We continue to be a leader in water conservation and reclamation, seeking to make the most efficient use of our water supply. However, the customers we serve need assurance the Delta will able to continue to balance its many critical functions without interruption. SDIP is an important step toward achieving that goal.

LVMWD-1

Sincerely,

Charles Caspary
President of the Board

cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Hon. Fran Pavley, Assemblymember, 41st District
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
Fred Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Metropolitan Water District
Association of California Water Agencies

Response to Comments

LVMWD-1

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

Comment Letter MWD

MWD

T. Snow
J Johnson
Kathy Kelly
Paul Marshall

MWD
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JAN 09 2006

040

Executive Office

December 28, 2005

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

Dear Director Snow:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supports the California Department of Water Resources' South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). The SDIP would enhance the operational flexibility of the State Water Project (SWP) in order to meet the multiple needs within the Delta. Metropolitan's Board policy is to support projects and programs that provide for the environmental and water quality needs of the Delta and its users in a manner that also protects the supply reliability and water quality for over 18 million people in Metropolitan's service area that rely on the SWP for their water supply. MWD-1

Given the major infrastructure challenges facing the State, the SDIP represents an important decision for California – a chance to use existing Delta infrastructure in a responsible, balanced fashion to continue to deliver water upon which two-thirds of the state depends. It requires no major new facilities, and funding has already been secured under Proposition 13.

Components of the SDIP were an integral part of a landmark CALFED document (the 2000 Record of Decision), which was supported by environmental organizations, water agencies, farmers, and business leaders. The SDIP is currently in the midst of a public review and comment period, initiated by the release of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS). This environmental review marks the next step forward, with important implications for all involved.

Specifically, the SDIP would provide the following benefits:

- Increased ability to protect fish species through the construction of seasonal tidal gates to create better migration pathways down the mainstem of the San Joaquin River and away from the export pumps;
- Enhanced water levels and quality for South Delta users who rely on the Delta water supply for farming through the use of the seasonal tidal gates;

700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 • Mailing Address: Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • Telephone (213) 217-6000

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Mr. Lester Snow
Page 2
December 28, 2005

JAN 09 2006

040

- Increased protection for fish by creating flexibility to pump during fish-friendly periods, timed to take place when water supply is available and it is environmentally safe to pump.

As one of the earliest supporters of ecosystem restoration in the Delta through its commitment of $30 million for restoration projects, Metropolitan shares everyone's concern about protecting Delta fisheries. We support the State's phased, prudent approach, that allows for a thorough, sound scientific review by a multi-agency work team dedicated to protecting Delta fish species, and ensures the responsible implementation of SDIP for the benefit of the environment, Delta, and SWP. MWD-1

Metropolitan looks forward to working with the State and all interests on the successful implementation of improvements in the Delta. A healthy and reliable Delta system is one of the keys to Metropolitan's successful diversified water supply and water quality strategy. Through its Integrated Resources Plan, Metropolitan is looking to fit a reliable SWP system with a program of water conservation, water recycling, groundwater treatment, voluntary water transfers and storage. SDIP would help achieve a more reliable Delta system for all stakeholders.

Very truly yours,

Debra C. Man

Debra C. Man
Interim CEO/General Manager

SNA:cp
o:\adminwrm\s\c\SNA_SDIPLetter2Gov.doc

cc: State Water Contractors

Responses to Comments

MWD-1

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

Comment Letter MWA

MWA

DEC 22 2005 00015

Mojave Water Agency

22450 Headquarters Drive ♦ Apple Valley, California 92307-4304
Phone (760) 946-7000 ♦ Fax (760) 240-2642 ♦ www.mojavewater.org

December 9, 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 the Mojave Water Agency (the Agency), 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.

Our mission is to manage the region's water resources for the common benefit to assure stability in the sustained use by the citizens we serve. A Regional Water Management Plan and Urban Water Management Plan have been adopted by the Agency to assure a stable water supply. It is with these plans in place that the Agency intends to provide a balanced long-term water supply, protect the environment, and assure a high quality of life for the 4,900 square miles of the High Desert in Southern California that we serve with imported water supply from the State Water Project.

MWA-1

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.

DEC 2 2 2005 00015

December 9, 2005
Mr. Lester Snow
Page 2

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 deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so. MWA-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, 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.

DEC 2 2 2005 00015

December 9, 2005
Mr. Lester Snow
Page 3

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project. MWA-1

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mojave Water Agency

Kirby Brill
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

MWA-1

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

Comment Letter MWDOC

MWDOC

MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

10500 Ellis Avenue
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City of Westminster
Yorba Linda Water District

January 25, 2006

JAN 3 1 2006 109

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

RE: Support for South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), I would like to express support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). The SDIP represents a unique opportunity to provide water supply reliability, water quality improvement, and environmental benefits in one program.

MWDOC is the wholesale water provider for more than 70 percent of Orange County and the second largest customer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. MWDOC is a voluntary signatory to the Best Management Practices of urban water conservation and has actively implemented a variety of programs since 1991. We have also developed leading edge programs for landscape efficiency and runoff reduction that are now emulated by other agencies. Our commitment to water use efficiency and recycling has helped to reduce our reliance on imported water supplies. Even with these efforts, water from the Bay-Delta remains approximately 20% of our total supply mix. MWDOC-1

The SDIP will preserve the integrity of Delta water supplies without compromising the ecosystem or the benefits it provides to local water users. The tidal gates included in the SDIP will help improve water quality and protect fish in the Delta channels. The dredging of certain channels will help improve water supplies to Delta farmers. Finally, the SDIP will allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly, as environmental conditions permit.

We are pleased to support SDIP, a balanced program that provides benefits to Delta water users and the environment. We hope our expression of support will help the implementation of the SDIP.

Thank you.

Jan 31 2006 6:55PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.2

JAN 3 1 2006 109

Sincerely,

Ed Royce, Sr.

Ed Royce, Sr.
Immediate Past President
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Jan 31 2006 6:55PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.3

Responses to Comments

MWDOC-1

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