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DEC 07 2005 00004

December 6, 2005

Mr. Paul Marshall PE
Bay-Delta Office
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 215-30
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvements Program December 6, 2005 Public Information Meeting

Dear Mr. Marshall:

On behalf of the members of Western Growers, I write to express support for the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP).

Western Growers is an agricultural trade association whose 3,000 members grow, pack and ship 90 percent of the fresh vegetables and nearly 70 percent of the fresh fruit and nuts grown in Arizona and California, about one-half of the nation's fresh produce. The specialty crop industry is an important component of California's $32 billion agriculture industry and, like many other industries, depends heavily on a high-quality, reliable water supply. Although our members utilize many water saving technologies, we recognize that there are an increasing number of pressures on the state's water infrastructure. Western Growers supports the SDIP because we believe the program achieves the objective of smart, balanced water management.

The program's physical/structural activities coupled with the operational component will provide higher quality water and fish protection to the south Delta region while acknowledging the importance of increased reliability and flexibility in delivering water to California citizens and businesses.

For these reasons, Western Growers strongly supports the SDIP.

Sincerely,

Erin Field
Government Affairs Analyst

cc: Dennis Albiani, Office of the Governor
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency

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