

*J. Johns**Kathy Kelly*

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December 12, 2005

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**Director of the
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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.

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