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COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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December 9, 2005

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

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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 Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor; Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, ACWA, CMUA

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