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December 12, 2005

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Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
State of California
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SOUTH DELTA IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Dear Director Snow:

This letter is to express support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). SDIP is a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This November, 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.

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 risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need to better manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as its water quality. 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 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. 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 and 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. This impairs our local ability to fully implement environmentally responsible programs such as our Dry Year Yield Program and conjunctive use of local ground water basins to store wet year surpluses for dry year use. These local programs can help to reduce peak dry year demands on the State Water 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 as it will not require 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).

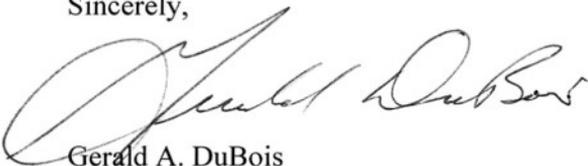
SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Southern California Water Committee of which the City of Ontario is a member.

Effective use of water is critical to our families, farms, and businesses and to continued economic progress. 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. Locally we are implementing all of these practices. Statewide, it is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to implement programs to accommodate existing and growth in our population and economy while remaining resource wise and service reliable.

We support the SDIP and encourage key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gerald A. DuBois
Council Member
City of Ontario

cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, 1st Floor, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish & Game, 1416 9th Street, 12th Floor, Sacramento 95814
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, 1416 9th Street, #1311, Sacramento 95814
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, 650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor, Sacramento 95814
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U. S. Bureau Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento 95825
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Southern California Water Committee
Mr. Ken Jeske, City of Ontario – Public Works/Community Services Director