



L. SNOW  
Johns  
Kathy Reedy

P.O. Box 1596 • Patterson, CA 95363-1596

Fax (209) 892-4469 • Phone (209) 892-4470

December 19, 2005

DEC 23 2005

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

Re: South Delta Improvement Program

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of Del Puerto Water District, I am writing to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs.

The District, comprised of almost 45,000 acres of prime farmland located along the west side of Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced Counties, is under contract with the United States' Bureau of Reclamation for its water supply, which is delivered from the Delta-Mendota Canal, a feature of the Central Valley Project. The District's contractual entitlement is its sole source of water supply to its lands.

For many years now we have been concerned about the District's water future and have committed ourselves to improving the long-term reliability of these supplies in an environmentally responsible manner. The SDIP offers a much needed help in this regard.

As you know, the state is currently constrained in its ability to move available water supplies through the Delta. While infrastructure to move the water has been in place for many years, until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers are constrained from fully or responsibly utilizing the existing system. While SDIP calls for only a modest 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta, significantly and at the same time, it provides the increased flexibility needed to shift the timing of these improved water diversions to those times when it is environmentally safe. The SDIP will serve not only to improve water quality in the southern reaches of the Delta, it will help to protect those fish species that live in or pass through the Delta channels.

We view the SDIP as a responsible and balanced plan that will better utilize and integrate the existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. It will undoubtedly improve the State's overall water supply reliability while improving both water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The SDIP provides a responsible and

DEC 23 2005

035

balanced approach to addressing the long-term water resource needs of all of California's diverse social, economic and environmental interests.

Again, the Board of Directors, landowners and water users of the Del Puerto Water District strongly support South Delta Improvement Program and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



William D. Harrison, General Manager  
DEL PUERTO WATER DISTRICT

Cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director 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