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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

January 23, 2006

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

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

The California Association of REALTORS® would like to express our support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This past October, 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.

One of the many functions of The California Association of REALTORS® is to serve its membership by encouraging programs and policy designed to promote the livability and quality of California's communities and neighborhoods. A clean and reliable water supply is the key element in determining the ability of our communities, farms, environment and businesses to prosper and to continue to provide our members with the pleasure and pride of selling the California Dream.

As you know, 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 great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

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. 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.



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Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to all aspects of California life. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EB', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Elizabeth Brode  
Legislative Advocate  
California Association of REALTORS®

cc (*by facsimile*): Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633  
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of  
Reclamation, (916) 978-5114  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
Mr. Fred Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358