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January 25, 2006

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

RE: Support for South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), I would like to express support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). The SDIP represents a unique opportunity to provide water supply reliability, water quality improvement, and environmental benefits in one program.

MWDOC is the wholesale water provider for more than 70 percent of Orange County and the second largest customer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. MWDOC is a voluntary signatory to the Best Management Practices of urban water conservation and has actively implemented a variety of programs since 1991. We have also developed leading edge programs for landscape efficiency and runoff reduction that are now emulated by other agencies. Our commitment to water use efficiency and recycling has helped to reduce our reliance on imported water supplies. Even with these efforts, water from the Bay-Delta remains approximately 20% of our total supply mix.

The SDIP will preserve the integrity of Delta water supplies without compromising the ecosystem or the benefits it provides to local water users. The tidal gates included in the SDIP will help improve water quality and protect fish in the Delta channels. The dredging of certain channels will help improve water supplies to Delta farmers. Finally, the SDIP will allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly, as environmental conditions permit.

We are pleased to support SDIP, a balanced program that provides benefits to Delta water users and the environment. We hope our expression of support will help the implementation of the SDIP.

Thank you.

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Sincerely,

*Ed Royce, Sr.*

Ed Royce, Sr.  
Immediate Past President  
Municipal Water District of Orange County