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January 20, 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:

As Burbank Water and Power General Manager, I write to express support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). DWR has been given the tremendous task of improving water supply for south Delta agriculture, improving fish protection, and increasing the amount and reliability of water supply for the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. We believe implementing the SDIP represents a critical step toward meeting California's diverse water needs.

For nearly 100 years, Burbank Water and Power (BWP), as a community-owned utility, has been serving over 100,000 people with water and electricity. BWP is dedicated to water conservation (using less water) and water efficiency (using water better), and we look for creative ways to save water. This is a matter of survival given the possibility of severe water woes in Southern California. At BWP, we look for solutions that are good for the community and the environment.

We seek creative ways to save water. As an industry first, we have installed an innovative Zero Liquid Discharge Water Treatment System that uses recycled water for all industrial uses in our power plants and saves over 2 million gallons of drinking water a day. In addition, we are proud to be undertaking an aggressive plan to exclusively use recycled water for our large outdoor landscape users.

As you know, in the water industry, we face the ever increasing challenge of doing more with less. BWP receives a significant share of its water from the Bay-Delta and Central Valley Project. We support efforts like the SDIP that improve the safety, reliability, and quality of water. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system.

We believe that SDIP is a responsible, balanced, and flexible plan that moves the state in the right direction. SDIP represents a first step to better utilize, integrate and operate our existing

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water management infrastructure in the Delta. 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 – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta and only when it is available and environmentally safe to do so. Another added advantage is that the SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries.

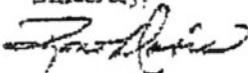
Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

SDIP is a creative solution for California to advance – it does 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).

BWP takes seriously our duty to conserve water through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling, and storage to ensure California's water future. We believe that SDIP provides a beginning solution that is good for the environment and California.

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

Sincerely,



Ronald E. Davis
General Manager, BWP

c: Mary Alvord, City Manager
Debra Mann, MWD Interim
Giem Brown, MWD Director
BWP Board Members
Kathy Cole, MWD

c: (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. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358