

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

FEB 09 2006 00161

February 6, 2006

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

Dear Director Snow:

We write in support of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP).

In October 2005, your Department and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (U.S.B.R.) released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for the SDIP which began an important public review and comment process that concludes on February 7, 2006. We urge you, the Administration, and the U.S.B.R. to certify the SDIP EIR/S and move forward with this critical project designed to meet our State's diverse water needs.

Two-thirds of Californians rely upon water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. A safe, reliable and high quality water supply is needed to keep up with our rapidly rising population and growing trillion-dollar economy. However, there are limited water supplies in our arid state, so it is incumbent to better utilize the existing water resources and infrastructure. Otherwise, we put communities, farms, businesses, and the environment at great risk. Given the Delta's significance, better ways are needed to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. Every drop must count.

As you know, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but our water managers cannot fully use the existing system until the SDIP is approved. The SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and environmentally safe to do so. This flexibility will also help protect important Delta environmental resources, including fish species, by providing the state more options in how and when the SDIP operates its system of pumps.

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At a time when California is confronting its inadequate levee systems, flood control and emergency management, and long-term infrastructure investments in the Delta, the SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance now. It will not require the building of a major new project. Funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

We are pleased the SDIP is supported by a broad and diverse statewide coalition of interests, including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association, and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through the best possible management practices, including water conservation, recycling, and storage to ensure California's water future. It is imperative to have a more flexible water delivery system so we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and in the economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support the SDIP and encourage you to advance this critical project.

Sincerely,

Bob Marzetti

Dick Ackerman

Judd Spitler

Bill Gamm

Dave Cogdell

Sharon Runner

Bob Sutton

M R

Rudy Bermudez

James F. Battling

Tom Harman

Michael N. Vini

Bob Telf

Bonnie Garcia

John J. Bennett
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Chuck DeVos

Diana Hovey

Mark Wyland

Lynn Sanchez

Shirley Horton

Van Tran

Betty Farnette

De Abijah

Niall

- cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Mr. Ryan Broddrick, Director, California 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, Special Advisor to the Governor on Environmental Policy, Office of the Governor

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Signatories to February 6, 2006, letter include:

Senator Bob Margett
29th Senate District

Senator Dick Ackerman
33rd Senate District

Assemblymember Todd Spitzer
71st Assembly District

Assemblymember Bill Emmerson
63rd Assembly District

Assemblymember Dave Cogdill
25th Assembly District

Assemblymember Sharon Runner
36th Assembly District

Assemblymember Mike Villines
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Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia
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Assemblymember Chuck DeVore
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Senator Dean Florez
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