



September 16, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 49 (Skinner): Energy Efficiency and State Water Project Assessment
REQUEST SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the State Water Contractors, Inc., I respectfully request your favorable consideration of SB 49 by Senator Nancy Skinner.

As you well know, California's State Water Project (SWP) is the largest state-owned water conveyance and power generation system in the United States. It includes 36 storage facilities, 21 pumping plants, five hydroelectric power plants, four pumping-generating plants, and approximately 705 miles of canals, tunnels, and pipelines, making it an incredibly complex water delivery system. The SWP construction, operation, and maintenance costs are borne by 29 public water agencies that contract with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for water supply. As such, the primary mission of the SWP is to deliver and store water throughout California to over 27 million people and 750,000 acres of farmland.

The SWP provides other incidental benefits as well, including hydroelectric generation, energy grid management, flood control, and recreation. The amount of precipitation the state receives each year, however, significantly affects how much water passes through the powerhouses and is pumped throughout the state. That in turn dictates how much flexibility the facilities have in generating and consuming power.

The SWP also plays an important leadership role in helping the state achieve its carbon reduction goals to combat climate change. The SWP produces about 14% of the state's hydroelectricity and self-generates, on average, 60% of its own energy needs with greenhouse gas (GHG) emission-free power. In conjunction with the September 2018 Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, your director of the Department of Water Resources, Karla Nemeth, announced its commitment to cut greenhouse (GHG) emissions by 60% or more below 1990 levels. As proof of its ability to meet that commitment, in less than 30 years, DWR has already reduced annual GHG emissions by more than one million metric tons, the equivalent of taking 200,000 cars off the road.

DIRECTORS

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Jennifer Pierre

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Section 1 in SB 49 directs there be an assessment of the opportunities and constraints related to the SWP and its potential contributions to achieving the state's climate goals, without impacting the primary purpose of the SWP. The bill also calls for a timeline for implementation of recommendations and potential funding from state, federal, and other applicable sources.

For all of the above reasons, we urge you to sign SB 49 into law and look forward to being an active participant in implementation of the bill, should it become law. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (916) 447-7357, Extension 203.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Pierre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer Pierre
General Manager

cc: Senator Nancy Skinner