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It Is Not a Question of a Delta Tunnel or Local Supply Projects: Both Are Necessary for a Secure Water Future!

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The Delta Conveyance Project is a necessary upgrade to ensure that our aging 1960-era State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure will continue to function into the future and will help California water agencies develop their local water supply projects and reduce future reliance on imported supplies.

An emerging narrative that we have seen from project opponents is the false choice between either supporting the Delta Conveyance Project or supporting more local and regional projects to develop alternative or expanded water supply sources. These are not alternatives to each other. We can and must do both.

We know that due to rising sea levels and major changes in precipitation patterns we need to upgrade our infrastructure to better capture the very high flow events to insure against drier times. The Delta Conveyance Project is the infrastructure upgrade needed to ensure the SWP is a viable water supply source into the future. In addition to providing 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland from Silicon Valley down to San Diego with the water they need to run their homes, farms and businesses, the water delivered through the SWP is used throughout the state by California's public water agencies to help them develop additional sources of water supplies.

That is because public water agencies use the high-quality water delivered through the SWP to blend with lower-quality local water sources to manage groundwater basins and to fill storage for drought resiliency. Additionally, new recycling projects, like those being planned in Southern California, need an original source of high-quality water for the technology to work. The SWP is that source.

The notion that California can simply develop local supply projects without relying on the SWP is misleading at best. And the notion that the SWP can continue to deliver the water Californians need without investing in infrastructure upgrades, such as the Delta Conveyance Project, is extremely short-sighted. This kind of misinformation only serves to confuse Californians, stir up tensions and delay the Delta Conveyance Project that experts agree we need to build.

To secure California's water future, what we need now is consensus. We need to move past the old binaries that have divided us and operate from the same set of facts:

- Our climate is changing
- The status quo is not an option
- There is no replacing the SWP
- Local and regional projects are a necessary resiliency strategy
- We need SWP water to support local supply projects
- SWP infrastructure is aging and must be modernized

- The Delta Conveyance Project will help us do that

These facts are not debatable. There is no choosing whether to accept or reject them. They are what they are. Let's have a conversation on the merits, let's ask questions, let's hash out our differences and let's be honest, truthful and transparent. Always.

The State Water Contractors is a statewide, non-profit association of 27 public agencies from Northern, Central and Southern California that purchase water under contract from the California State Water Project. Collectively the State Water Contractors deliver water to more than 27 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural land. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit www.swc.org.