



May 12, 2021

Senator Anthony Portantino  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 559 (Hurtado): State Water Resiliency Act of 2021 – **SUPPORT**  
Senate Appropriations Committee – **Suspense File**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the Friant Water Authority, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and the State Water Contractors, we wish to convey our support for SB 559 and request that the bill move off suspense to the Senate floor.

This bill would establish the Canal Conveyance Restoration Fund for repair of critical water delivery infrastructure upon which California's communities, its agricultural economy and critical habitat and ecosystems depend. Adapting and updating California's water conveyance infrastructure is also essential to building a more resilient water supply future, one that can withstand the impacts of climate change while delivering public benefits of clean, reliable, and affordable water.

Over 31 million Californians depend on water that flows through the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) conveyance facilities. These facilities provide water supplies that are necessary to maintain the state's economy, to develop additional local water supplies, to recharge local groundwater basins and to serve disadvantaged communities throughout the state. When water supplies are constrained, disadvantaged communities are often affected first and most severely, through both a lack of access to affordable, high quality water as well as through job losses when agricultural production slows due to unreliable water supplies.

Key segments of SWP and CVP conveyance facilities have lost carrying capacity over time, which poses a threat to California's ability to reliably deliver water. The Friant-Kern Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, San Luis Canal and California Aqueduct are experiencing a 15-60 percent reduction of design flow capacity due to land subsidence. Combined with higher operational and power costs of at least \$15-30 million per year, it now costs more every year to convey less water to customers.

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A broad coalition of state and federal water contractors support creating a statewide program to repair and restore California's critical water infrastructure. A three-way cost sharing strategy between the state and federal governments and local agencies will maintain the affordability of water supplies and reduce impacts to ratepayers.

SB 559 represents a holistic, statewide approach to repairing critical conveyance systems in order to improve climate resilience, create and protect local jobs, protect disadvantaged communities and ecosystems and continue to increase state and national food security. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee move the bill from suspense to the Senate floor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jason Phillips, Chief Executive Officer  
**Friant Water Authority**



Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
**San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority**



Jennifer Pierre, General Manager  
**State Water Contractors**

cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
Ashley Ames, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Emilye Reeb, Fiscal Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Senator Melissa Hurtado, California State Senate