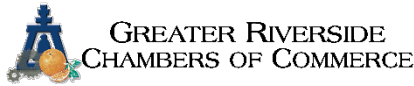




CA-NV Conference of Operating Engineers



December 16, 2022

Department of Water Resources
1416 9th St
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Subject: Support for The Delta Conveyance Project Environmental Impact Report

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of our broad coalition of family farmers, labor unions, business groups, local government, public safety advocates, conservationists, taxpayer groups and citizens, we are writing to express our strong support for the Delta Conveyance Project as detailed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Delta Conveyance Project would modernize aging State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure and help protect against future water supply losses caused by climate change.

We urge the Department of Water Resources and Governor Newsom’s Administration to approve and move forward with the proposed project presented in the Draft EIR, which consists of a 6,000 cubic feet per second conveyance system that connects directly into the California Aqueduct. Climate change and sea level rise threaten to make future operations of the SWP increasingly less reliable. It is prudent and responsible to pursue this project now, before climate change creates a water supply emergency. Failure to act on this project as proposed, will inevitably limit the SWP in the future, and result in the loss of continued local investment and water supplies for a majority of Californians.

The ongoing drought has once again demonstrated that California’s aging water infrastructure is not equipped to handle the regular boom and bust cycles of our changing climate. The proposed project is an essential climate adaptation strategy as it will ensure the SWP can capture, move, and store water when it is available as we face new climate realities such as intense yet unpredictable storms, extended, more frequent droughts and increasing water temperatures, among others. In fact, if the Delta Conveyance Project had been operational at the end of 2021

when the state saw record-breaking storm events, approximately 236,000 acre-feet of water could have been captured and moved into storage – enough water for 2.5 million Californians or nearly 850,000 households - for a full year. This water would have helped ease the current drought which is decimating family farms and forcing significant cutbacks for residents and businesses.

The proposed Delta Conveyance Project is a very different project from previous conveyance proposals. DWR took a fresh look at everything, and the current proposed project reflects significant changes and improvements to minimize impacts. Ultimately, the project has been downsized, refined, rerouted, and redesigned. In addition to the design changes, the proposed project also includes a Community Benefits Program to ensure the communities most affected by construction of the project are provided the means and resources to achieve local benefits, and a commitment to robust community engagement with Environmental Justice/Disadvantaged Communities, Tribes and local Delta communities.

Ultimately, the proposed Delta Conveyance Project will:

- Aid in ensuring the SWP can capture, move, and store water when it is available in our changing climate.
- Protect our water supplies from sea-level rise, the effects of climate change and earthquakes.
- Ensure communities and water managers across the state have a stable water supply to pursue local resiliency and meet all needs, including health and safety, economic, environmental and water quality.

Getting to this point has been a long and thorough process. Now is the time to act and move forward to protect California's water security.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Barrera, President & CEO
California Chamber of Commerce

Rick L. Callender, Esq., President
California Hawaii State Conference NAACP

Michael Quigley, Executive Director
California Alliance for Jobs

Brad Diede, Executive Director
American Council of Engineering Companies California

Brian Mello, Associate Vice President of
Engagement & Regulatory Affairs
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Charley Wilson, Executive Director & CEO
Southern California Water Coalition

Joseph Cruz, Director
California State Council of Laborers

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California Building Industry Association

Tim Cremins, Director
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California Business Properties Association

Emily Cohen, Executive Vice President
United Contractors

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and Advocacy
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Stuart Waldman, President
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

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Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Luis Portillo, President & CEO
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Mary Holing, Vice President Environment Policy
Silicon Valley Leadership Group