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CONTACT:

Katie Lee
(916) 541-9522

klee@fionahuttonassoc.com

State Water Contractors Applaud the State's Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project

Certification Represents Key Milestone, Advancing the Project Forward

Sacramento, CA – Today, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) [certified the Final Environmental Impact Report \(Final EIR\) for the Delta Conveyance Project](#), determining that the Final EIR has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and reflects DWR's review and responses to all substantive comments received throughout the public review process. DWR selected the Bethany Reservoir Alignment because of the project's engineering feasibility, conceptual design, constructability and the potential to reduce key environmental impacts. The Delta Conveyance Project will provide long overdue and critical modernizations to existing State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure to increase California's climate resiliency and water security amidst climate-driven weather extremes, rising sea levels and earthquakes for the 27 million people, 750,000 acres of farmland and countless businesses who rely on it.

Statement from Jennifer Pierre, General Manager of the State Water Contractors:

"The State Water Contractors celebrate DWR's certification of the Final EIR for the Delta Conveyance Project — a critical step in the process that will give us the green light to move forward with the project and secure California's water future, while limiting diversions to times when all water quality standards for the environment and other users have been met.

With this certification, the state is recognizing that the time to modernize the SWP's infrastructure is now — improving the way we capture and move water during high-flow weather events to store for later use when it's dry. The Delta Conveyance Project has been reviewed, studied, re-reviewed, and re-studied for over a decade. With recent advances in science and forecasting that enable the state to make management decisions that respond to real time hydrologic conditions for the benefit of both people and fish, the Project will improve the state's ability to

advance the co-equal goals of protecting the Delta ecosystem while meeting the water needs for two-thirds of the state that depend on the State Water Project.

The Delta Conveyance Project is not a replacement for any of the actions water managers across California are already taking to build local water resiliency by developing more local and regional supplies, banking water whenever possible, and continuing to help native fish and wildlife. Rather, it is a critical tool in the state's toolbox to help strengthen these efforts to secure affordable, high-quality water for the long term. It is time to stop talking and start building, putting into action the Governor's 'all-of-the-above' approach to improving California's resiliency to climate change. We should have done this yesterday, but the next best time is now, and the Delta Conveyance Project's Final EIR certification is our go-ahead to begin building our way to a better future."

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