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CONTACT:
Evan Swerdfeger
(949) 933-4428
ESwerdfeger@fionahuttonassoc.com

State Water Contractors Welcome Thomas Gibson as Director of the California Department of Water Resources

Sacramento, CA — Today, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of Thomas Gibson as Director of the California Department of Water Resources. Mr. Gibson succeeds Karla Nemeth, who has served as Director since her appointment by former Governor Brown in January 2018.

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

"The State Water Contractors (SWC) welcome Thomas Gibson and congratulate him on his appointment as Director of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Mr. Gibson brings decades of leadership experience within California's water industry, most recently serving as a Lead Deputy Director at DWR.

"SWC looks forward to collaborating with Mr. Gibson to manage and protect California's water supplies and safeguard water security across the state. On behalf of water agencies serving 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland, SWC works closely with the Department of Water Resources to maintain and improve the State Water Project — California's most vital piece of water infrastructure.

"Mr. Gibson is entering this role at an important time for the project, as agencies all across the state are working with the state to modernize the system and seeking additional funding for vital subsidence repairs to preserve system capacity and ensure continued water supply deliveries for the future.

"Prior to working at DWR, Mr. Gibson served as Undersecretary, Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water, and General Counsel for the California Natural Resources Agency, and General Counsel at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. At this pivotal juncture for the State Water Project, with his understanding of the critical regulatory, infrastructure, and affordability challenges, Mr. Gibson is the right choice who can hit the ground running.

“Mr. Gibson brings the kind of experience and background needed to further the important work already underway at DWR, and the State Water Contractors look forward to working with him to keep building toward a future of greater water reliability for Californians.

“Finally, as we welcome Mr. Gibson, we would like to express our utmost appreciation to the outgoing Director, Karla Nemeth, for nearly two decades of immense work in service of the State Water Project and California’s water resources.”

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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.