

James Cioffi, President  
Joseph K. Stuart, Vice President  
Kristin Bloomer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Patricia G. Oygar, Director  
Craig A. Ewing, Director



Mark S. Krause, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Best, Best & Krieger, General Counsel  
Krieger & Stewart, Consulting Engineers

## **Desert Water Agency – CA WaterFix policy statement**

Desert Water Agency appreciates the opportunity to share its support of the joint petition for a change to the water rights necessary to allow for the implementation of key components of California WaterFix.

It is in DWA's interest to see the proposed California WaterFix plan to build two tunnels and three new intakes in the North Delta, and its ability to form a more reliable, dual-conveyance system move forward. Water rights necessary to allow for project implementation, required mitigation measures and flow criteria are key factors in determining the viability and interest in supporting the California WaterFix project.

Like many other places in the state, the community DWA serves is growing. Policy decisions must equip California to meet our future water demand.

Since DWA was founded, our customers have spent more than \$110 million on State Water Project infrastructure. DWA and our customers have also made significant investments in local recharge facilities. We need to ensure that these investments continue to support the community that made them.

Before DWA was established, our region's groundwater basin had been in overdraft for decades.

Our basin is now headed towards sustainability, but only with an imported water supply for recharge. The continued success of our region's approach and health of the groundwater basin rests on imported water supplies.

Without action, continued declining water deliveries could cause irreversible environmental and economic harm to our region and others across the state.

Stabilizing the declining reliability of Delta exports is critical to DWA. The current system is inadequate. Pumping restrictions have forced dramatic cutbacks in water deliveries even when supplies are abundant. As SWP delivery reliability has continued to decline in recent years, it has limited the supplies available for groundwater replenishment. While water deliveries may not return to what they once were, we must stop the decline.

We continue to miss opportunities to capture additional supplies when needed most – notably when winter storms could provide much needed relief during dry years. With a better system, California would be able to capture and store more supplies. We continue to tell

customers that every drop counts – as the state's water managers we must live up to this standard. Regulators must maximize the flexibility provided to projects to capture abundant supplies when river flows are high.

The state must be prepared to capture and utilize available supplies. Our community and the success of local water management efforts depend on reliable imported water supplies from the Delta. DWA supports the DWR and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation request to add diversion points. We look forward to California WaterFix benefits, and are hopeful that it is a project that advances the interests of our community, and those throughout the state.