

July 29, 2016

Sent Via Email To:

CWFhearing@waterboards.ca.gov

California WaterFix Co-Hearing Officer Tam M. Doduc
California WaterFix Co-Hearing Officer Felicia Marcus
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Re: California WaterFix, Policy Statement of Castaic Lake Water Agency

Dear Co-Hearing Officers Doduc and Marcus:

Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) is located 35 miles north of Los Angeles and serves the 275,000 residents of the Santa Clarita Valley with imported water. The Santa Clarita Valley has a diversified water supply portfolio with approximately half of normal year supplies coming from local groundwater. CLWA provides imported water that meets the other half of water demand. By far the largest source of imported water is CLWA's 95,200 acre-foot per year (AFY) State Water Project Table A amount.

CLWA implements a strategy of storing its imported water beyond current demand that is available during normal and wet periods in State Water Project surface storage and groundwater banking programs. In this manner CLWA is better able to meet dry-year demands when diversions from the Delta are reduced by drawing water from these storage assets. As a regional stakeholder in the Santa Clarita Valley, CLWA also actively participates in advancing local supplies such as recycled water, water conservation and treatment of contaminated groundwater. Even with development of these local supplies, the Santa Clarita Valley will remain dependent on imported water supplies from the State Water Project.

California's outdated water delivery system has reached a critical juncture with a declining Delta environment, declining water supply reliability, and heightened vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. CLWA urges the SWRCB to move forward with adopting a change in the State Water Project and Central Valley Project point of diversion to accommodate the California WaterFix.

Today about two-thirds of Californians are dependent on water exported from the Delta. The reliability of this supply continues to decline as fish and wildlife regulatory agencies have restricted reverse flows in the south Delta in order to reduce impacts of water exports on fish populations, including the Delta Smelt. Establishing a new point of diversion for the proposed California WaterFix would substantially reduce the frequency and magnitude of these adverse flow conditions and provide additional flexibility to meet California's water supply needs with less harm to endangered fish.

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The trend of declining SWP reliability places California's economy at risk. This is particularly evident during drought periods. While the California WaterFix would not provide additional supplies from the Delta in critically dry years, more flexible delivery operations to better manage fish/water supply conflicts and the resulting more stable supplies in normal and wet years provide agencies such as CLWA the ability to invest in water banking programs and local groundwater conjunctive use that can ensure reliable water supplies during times of drought.

Today's Delta infrastructure places California's water supplies at unreasonable risk now and in the future. California's water supplies are at risk due to poorly constructed, non-engineered levees that are vulnerable to failure due to variety of causes. Most concerning is the vulnerability to seismic events. USGS studies conclude there is over a 60 percent chance over the next 30 years of an earthquake that would result in multiple levee failures. The result would isolate 25 million Californians from a critical component of their water supply. This risk is only exacerbated by rising sea level caused by climate change.

California must act to advance solutions to accomplish its co-equal goals of water supply reliability and environmental preservation. CLWA views the California WaterFix as a critical component in achieving these goals. We urge the State Board to consider these policy factors as it reviews the change in point of diversion petition.

Sincerely,



Matthew G. Stone
General Manager