



February 19, 2023

Delivered via email: Eileen.Sobeck@Waterboards.ca.gov

Ms. Eileen Sobeck
 Executive Director State Water Resources Control Board
 1001 I Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Sobeck,

On behalf of the below signed water agencies and organizations throughout the state, we are writing in support of the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) requested by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), which would allow these agencies to temporarily protect the storage and delivery of water through March, and help offset the state-wide drought effects over the last three years for people, farms and the environment.

As demonstrated in the TUCP, the proposed temporary modification of a single compliance point recognizes the below average hydrology in February and provides opportunities to maintain water supply operations without negative effects on fish and water quality. In a letter dated February 13, 2023, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife agreed with this assessment, finding no unreasonable impacts to fish and wildlife.

There have been many calls to better align our water rights system with climate change effects. The rules in D-1641, adopted in 1995, did not and could not have anticipated the hydrology we now experience. The TUCP is aligned with our need to be responsive to climate effects, one of which is subseasonal whiplash. When D-1641 was adopted, an extremely wet January was often followed by a wet February. However, that was not the case this year. With reservoirs throughout the state at about average for this time of year and a dry February, January conditions are only one factor in determining how we should operate in subsequent drier months. The temporary modification requested in the TUCP will allow DWR and USBR to continue maintaining low salinity conditions over a significant extent of the estuary while protecting water supply for all beneficial uses.

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The effects of not approving the TUCP, should we continue to experience dry conditions, would be drastic for water supply and environmental conditions later in the year. Assuming the below-average hydrology conditions experienced so far in February continue in March, absent an order granting the TUCP, DWR and USBR would be required to cut Delta exports and release stored water from upstream reservoirs to provide an estimated 700,000 acre-feet of Delta outflow required to maintain the X2 at Port Chicago during February and March. That is more water than is currently stored in Folsom Reservoir. As you know, reservoir releases that occur throughout the year to support fish and water quality would not be possible without adequate storage. If we do not capture and store water during these heavy rain and snowfall events and while conditions in the Delta allow for it, then we will have less water throughout the year to support the needs of fish and communities.

Our agencies are very grateful for your thoughtful and science-based consideration of this issue.

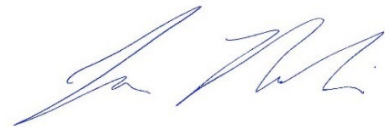
Sincerely,



Jennifer Pierre, General Manager
State Water Contractors



Jennifer Spindler, General Manager
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency



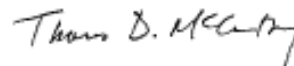
Jon Rubin, Assistant General Manager &
General Counsel
Westlands Water District



Jim Barrett, General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District



Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
Palmdale Water District



Thomas D. McCarthy, General Manager
Kern County Water Agency



Matthew Stone, General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency



Chris White, Executive Director
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Water Authority



Matt Knudson, General Manager
Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency

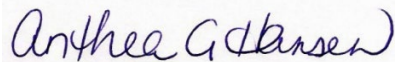


Lance Eckhart, General Manager
San Geronio Pass Water Agency

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Anthea Hansen, General Manager
Oak Flat Water District



Federico Barajas, Executive Director
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

cc: E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Dorene D'Adamo, State Water Resources Control Board
Sean Maguire, State Water Resources Control Board
Laurel Firestone, State Water Resources Control Board
Nichole Morgan, State Water Resources Control Board
Karla Nemeth, California Department of Water Resources
Ernest Conant, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Chuck Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Cathy Marcinkevage, National Marine Fisheries Service
Paul Souza, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael Lauffer, State Water Resources Control Board
Diane Riddle, State Water Resources Control Board
Amy Aufdemberge, U.S. Department of the Interior
Thomas Gibson, California Department of Water Resources