



Established in 1918 as a public agency

Coachella Valley Water District

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Robert Cheng, Assistant General Manager
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Best Best & Krieger LLP, Attorneys

June 21, 2016

SENT VIA EMAIL:

CWFhearing@waterboards.ca.gov

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair and Co-Hearing Officer
The Honorable Tam Doduc, Member and Co-Hearing Officer
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Co-Hearing Officers Marcus and Doduc:

Subject: CVWD Policy Statement: California WaterFix is Critical to Our Future

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has a long history of preserving the sustainability of water resources in the 1,000 square mile Coachella Valley area for future generations. Groundwater replenishment, alternative sources of water for irrigation and strong water conservation programs are all hallmarks of CVWD's commitment to sustainable water management. Another significant component of this water management strategy is securing reliable imported water supplies, and CVWD strongly supports the California WaterFix project.

California WaterFix will modernize our 50-year-old state water infrastructure by building new pipelines that will move water from the Sacramento River watershed more effectively underground rather than through the Delta. California WaterFix will also better allow the capture and transfer of more water during wet years. This will provide a better way for water managers to plan for dry periods and drought that inevitably will be more common in years to come. In CVWD's situation, our groundwater aquifer allows the ability to take the "big gulp" that occurs during the wet years for the benefit of dry year use.

The current outdated system of crumbling dirt levees is simply inadequate for conveying water across the vulnerable Bay-Delta area to Southern California. The current system is dependent on levees that put our clean water at risk from a major storm or earthquake. Such an event could cut off water supplies for millions of people, creating suffering for communities and havoc in the economy.

California WaterFix is guided by the best available science and public input. It will provide clean water supplies for 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland. The project will improve and protect the ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The revised location and technology will reduce impact to endangered fish and allow more natural Delta flow patterns.

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair and Co-Hearing Officer
The Honorable Tam Doduc, Member and Co-Hearing Officer
State Water Resources Control Board

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California WaterFix will secure 4.9 million acre-feet of clean water supplies annually, enough to provide 10 million households with water for a year. Projections show the project would create 1.1 million jobs and boost the state economy by 400 billion.

Here in the Coachella Valley, where we receive less than five inches of rain in an average year, we are recognized for our ongoing commitment to replenish our groundwater basin with imported water. Our role as a State Water Project contractor provides us access, through an exchange, to additional Colorado River water for that purpose. Therefore, we rely indirectly but critically on imported water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

We are all in this together. Our statewide water supply – and ultimately the security of all of our communities and the strength of our economy – depends on the long overdue upgrade of California's primary water delivery system. For these reasons, CVWD strongly supports the California WaterFix, and DWR's and the Bureau of Reclamation's request to add points of diversion for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett", written over a white background.

J. M. Barrett
General Manager

DC:CVWD CalWaterFixStatement-20160726Hearing