



Directors:

Ted R. Page
President
Division 1

Bruce Hafenfeld
Division 2

Martin Milobar
Division 3

Philip Cerro
Division 4

Charles (Bill) W. Wulff, Jr.
Division 5

Royce Fast
Vice President
Division 6

Gene A. Lundquist
Division 7

Curtis Creel
General Manager

Amelia T. Minaberrigarai
General Counsel

July 25, 2016

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

Re: Support of Change Petition to Allow Additional Diversion Points as Part
of California WaterFix

Dear Co-Hearing Officers Marcus and Doduc:

My name is Curtis Creel, and I am the General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency (Agency). The Agency was established in 1961 when Kern County voters approved legislation creating the Agency. Its primary purpose is to serve as the local contracting entity for the State Water Project (SWP). The Agency is governed by a seven-person, voter-elected board of directors, and is the largest agricultural SWP contractor representing over 750,000 acres of productively irrigated farmland in the southern San Joaquin Valley, and the fifth largest municipal and industrial SWP contractor meeting the needs of several communities within Kern County.

I am here today to express the Agency's support of the California Department of Water Resources' and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's petition to change the SWP and the Central Valley Project (CVP) water right permits to allow for additional points of diversion as part of California WaterFix. The SWP and CVP are critical components of Kern County's water management strategy, representing nearly 60 percent of the surface water supply used in the county. Improving the reliability of both projects is of critical importance to sustaining our local economy. Kern County public water agencies have invested significantly in programs to conjunctively use groundwater and surface water supplies to meet the needs of their service areas. However, changing conditions within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), coupled with a lack of water system infrastructure, have degraded the ability of the SWP and CVP to convey water through this sensitive estuary. The result has been a reduction in water supplies to communities south of the Delta. Absent resolution of the problems associated with conveying SWP and CVP water through the Delta, many areas within California, including Kern County, will struggle to meet their existing water needs.

(661) 634-1400

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Street Address

3200 Rio Mirada Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Support of Change Petition to Allow Additional Diversion Points as Part of California WaterFix
California WaterFix Co-Hearing Officers Marcus and Doduc
July 25, 2016
Page 2 of 2

California WaterFix proposes to complete an important part of the water system infrastructure that was contemplated by the State of California in the 1960s. The concept was simple—construct an intake along the Sacramento River in the north Delta and connect the intake via a new conveyance system to the California Aqueduct and Delta-Mendota Canal, which originate in the south Delta.

The State Water Resources Control Board (Board) will hear from proponents and opponents of California WaterFix that will present a complex picture to support their perspectives about how the project will either harm or help the environment and communities throughout the state. Your job is a difficult one that will require you to sift through the mountain of technical, legal and policy information that is about to be presented to you in order to issue a permit that will work for all Californians. While this seems a daunting task, the petition before you today is straightforward. It simply requests the Board approve additional points of diversion to allow the SWP and CVP to divert water at three proposed intakes along the Sacramento River in the north Delta. If granted, the petition will neither increase the diversion capacity that is currently authorized by the Board for the SWP and CVP, nor reduce protection to other water rights holders. The petition will allow the SWP and CVP to be operated more efficiently to provide water supplies for human uses while protecting the aquatic environment of the Delta. I urge you to approve the request for additional points of diversion.

Sincerely,



Curtis Creel
General Manager