



July 27, 2016

Re: California WaterFix Policy Statement

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

My name is Lynn Jensen and I am here on behalf of Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business. We represent more than 400 businesses in the County, including farming, ranching, oil, mining, service and support, and we are here today to express our strong support for California WaterFix.

Ventura County greatly relies on the state's aging water distribution system for 75% of its population. And our 100,000 acres of irrigated farmland is in jeopardy.

Supplies have been unreliable, especially in these times of drought. And local alternatives cannot adequately replace the water we receive from the State.

Expanding water storage above ground and below ground is necessary - but ineffective if there is no way to reliably transport that water across the state. The San Luis Reservoir, our state's primary south-of-Delta storage and drought buffer, bears testimony to this harsh reality. Today, it is 10% full... a historic low for this time of year even though Sacramento River runoff this year is near normal. This simply does not compute.

Ventura County has been a leader in conservation and in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan process. But the state water supply will be needed to replenish our groundwater basins, refilling aquifers to sustain our farmers and businesses that depend on well water. Imported water is needed for our cities, treated by our wastewater facilities, released to our creeks, and is truly a lynchpin that makes other local water development efforts succeed, supporting our economy.

We desperately need to replenish groundwater basins, fill up reservoirs, and recharge our existing water supplies - but without a reliable conveyance we cannot get water where it's needed and too much water will be lost to sea, as occurred this winter, that could and should be captured.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our strong support for the project. We urge you to approve the water diversion permit. It's time to move forward with the CA WaterFix.

Sincerely,

Lynn Jensen
Executive Director
Ventura County CoLAB