



July 27, 2016

Re: California WaterFix Policy Statement

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

My name is Joseph Cruz and I represent the California State Council of Laborers. We represent 65,000 men and women working in the heavy construction industry across the state and we thank you for the opportunity today to show support for the CA WaterFix.

We join more than 170 other groups across the state in support of this project to update our aging water infrastructure.

More than 25 million Californians are currently relying on a system more than 60-years-old to deliver our precious water supplies daily.

In a state at the forefront of technological advances, we ask why are we neglecting the most important infrastructure that delivers water to 2 out of 3 Californians?

California WaterFix will improve the safety of our water system by updating the state's outdated water infrastructure, relying on the best engineering practices. By moving our water underground and using gravity instead of depending on dirt levees, WaterFix will be a more reliable system that can protect water supplies from major earthquakes, floods and climate change.

This state and our water supply are at risk from earthquakes. One earthquake in the Delta region could lead to job losses and water outages across the state.

WaterFix was chosen as the preferred project after nearly 10 years of expert review and analysis. It is the most viable plan and is not only supported by other labor groups, citizens, farmers, businesses and public safety experts, but also by leading scientists, water agencies, engineers and other experts.

We can't afford to wait any longer to move this project forward - the cost of doing nothing is too great.

We urge you to support the California WaterFix to secure a reliable water supply for our state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Cruz

Legislative Advocate

California State Council of Laborers