



July 26, 2016

Re: California WaterFix Policy Statement

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

My name is David Grau and I represent the Ventura County Taxpayers Association. We represent hundreds of businesses and taxpayers in the County, and it's our mission to inform Ventura County taxpayers regarding issues of concern, promote the wise use of public funds, oppose waste, and recommend positions that will best serve the taxpayers' interests. We believe the CA WaterFix best serves taxpayers' interests by securing reliable water supplies at an affordable rate.

We join with more than a dozen other CA WaterFix supporters in the County, including Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County, Tri Counties Building & Construction Trades Council, Calleguas Municipal Water District, and the Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties to name a few, and more than 170 diverse groups statewide in strong support of the is project.

Currently, 75% of our Counties water supplies come from our state's antiquated water distribution system, and this percentage could actually increase to virtually 100% as adjacent communities struggling with extreme drought conditions, including the cities of Ventura and Ojai, may take their state water allocations for the first time in history.

And these water supplies are continually strained due to a multi-year drought, pumping restrictions, climate change and an ever growing population. This mid 20th-century project was not built to meet these many challenges.

Besides the fact that local alternatives alone simply cannot replace $\frac{3}{4}$ of our supply, alternatives such as desalination would our County's residents more than twice as much as the CAWaterFix.

CA WaterFix is the most viable plan - it was drafted after nearly 10 years and was chosen as the best solution to repair this system and make water supplies more reliable.

It will better protect our water supplies from earthquakes and other natural disasters that could cut off water supplies for millions for up to a year and cost our economy in the billions.

The 25 million California residents reliant on this unfinished, mid-20th century system deserve better and as a state we can and must do better to stabilize this critical water supply!"

I want to say thank you on behalf of the Ventura County Taxpayers for the opportunity to share our thoughts. We urge the Board to approve the permit for California WaterFix to secure a reliable water supply for our state for years to come.

Sincerely,

David Grau
Board Chairman
Ventura County Taxpayers Association