



Via Electronic Mail

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Tracy Quinn
Chair, One Water and Stewardship Committee
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Support for Continued Investment in Planning for the Delta Conveyance Project

Dear Chair Quinn:

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG), I am writing to express our support for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan) continued participation and investment in the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). Specifically, we urge Metropolitan to vote in favor of the \$141.6 million funding agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to complete planning and preconstruction efforts associated with the DCP. The DCP is a critical infrastructure project that will make California more resilient in the face of changing hydrology. The CVRWMG supports infrastructure modernization in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to develop a more reliable water supply future for California.

The CVRWMG includes the Coachella Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, Indio Water Authority, Mission Springs Water District, and Valley Sanitary District. The group represents a collaborative effort to implement the Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan to address the water resources planning needs of the Coachella Valley, which is in central Riverside County. While not physically connected to the State Water Project (SWP), Coachella Valley Water District and Desert Water Agency are both SWP contractors that rely on their allocations for exchange with Metropolitan to ensure reliable supplies and sustainable groundwater management for the Coachella Valley region. The CVWD and DWA Board of Directors have both voted to continue funding the next phase of pre-construction work for the DCP.

As you know, roughly 27 million Californians rely on the SWP for their daily water needs, yet the existing conveyance system is unsustainable and threatens water supply reliability. Since 2007, deliveries have

averaged 45% of contracted supplies and are projected to continue to decline with changes in climate. Because of our changing climate and state regulatory restrictions, the existing Delta conveyance facilities will lose an estimated 600,000 acre-feet per year. The DCP is an essential climate adaptation strategy. It will protect against future water supply losses caused by climate change, sea level rise, and earthquakes. It will also help ensure that the SWP can capture, move and store water to make the most of big, but infrequent, storm events. Investments to modernize the DCP are the most cost-effective alternative to replace this supply loss and support the state's affordability goals

Ensuring a long-term Delta solution through the DCP is critical for water security, food security, and economic viability of California. The CVRWMG respectfully urges the Metropolitan Board of Directors to vote in favor of the funding agreement with DWR. This funding will allow DWR to complete the DCP planning and provide the needed information to make a well-informed decision on future construction. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at zrodriguezdelrey@cvwd.org or (760) 398-2661 ext. 2389.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zoe Rdr', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Zoe Rodriguez del Rey
On behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group
Water Resources Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

CVRWMG agency representatives:
Steve Johnson, Desert Water Agency
Ron Buchwald, Valley Sanitary District
Castulo Estrada, Coachella Water Authority
Reymundo Trejo, Indio Water Authority
Marion Champion, Mission Springs Water District

cc: Board of Directors, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California