

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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March 16, 2011

Water Commission Chair and Commission Members:

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) supports the efforts of the California Water Commission to begin its work to review criteria and methods for evaluating proposed water storage projects relative to their public benefits.

Although one outcome of this effort is to help the Commission prepare for the bond measure currently scheduled for the November 2012 ballot, we believe there are other significant benefits that will result from this work. The results will provide California with a publicly-vetted approach for evaluating the public benefits for a broad range of water management projects, and a framework for quantifying more accurately costs to beneficiaries, both of which will guide future investments.

DWR stands ready to assist the commission with its work to investigate and review criteria and methods for evaluating the public benefits of proposed water storage projects as described in SBX7-2. This is consistent with Water Code section 161, which authorizes the California Water Commission to "confer with, advise and make recommendations to the director with respect to any matters and subjects under his jurisdiction" and will further the efforts to ensure appropriate public investments in water projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Cowin".

Mark W. Cowin
Director