

**Castaic Lake Water Agency
Central Coast Water Authority
Coachella Valley Water District
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Zone 7 Water Agency of Eastern Alameda County**

January 31, 2013

Secretary Ken Salazar
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary John Laird
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioner Michael L. Connor
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dr. Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Salazar, Secretary Laird, Commissioner Connor and Deputy Secretary Meral:

Solving California's water challenges requires bold action. And, over the past seven years, the federal and state administrations have undertaken one of the most important and water supply reliability and habitat conservation planning processes in the nation. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is months away from releasing a draft EIR/EIS that will identify a preferred alternative for protecting the Delta estuary and restoring reliable water supplies for 25 million Californians, business and millions of acres of farmland.

Under your leadership, the federal and state governments have ensured what is arguably one of the most transparent and public discussions that focus on the merits of the various ecosystem restoration and conveyance alternatives as opposed to endless debates on the process itself.

In addition, public water agencies throughout California that rely on the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project supported the landmark package of state legislation from 2009 which established a clear path for advancing bold and comprehensive change in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The legislation included a mandate to review a wide array of possible conveyance improvements in the Delta. This is both sound public policy and fiscally prudent.

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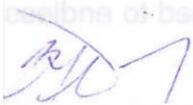
While public water agencies stand ready to make significant reinvestments in Delta conveyance improvements, the overall project must work both fiscally for the agencies and for the health of a recovering estuary. The "BDCP Framework" announced in July of 2012 holds great promise for meeting the many needs of a comprehensive Delta solution. Construction of two new water supply tunnels from the northern Delta to the existing aqueduct facilities, for example, would provide for the necessary reliability and avoid the unacceptable risks of a single-tunnel approach. The improved conveyance is large enough to capture sufficient wet-year supplies and it addresses the need for urban communities to stay on the path of conserving and recycling more water. In summary, it is sized to serve California capably for the next 100 years, as climate and ecosystem conditions are expected to change.

Recently, a conceptual alternative to the BDCP was proposed which included a smaller sized tunnel (3,000 cubic feet per second vs. 9,000 cubic feet per second). Our preliminary analysis includes a variety of inherent physical limitations, drawbacks, and negative cost benefit impacts related to downsizing the conveyance system. We understand a full range of conveyance alternatives, including a 3,000 cfs facility, will be thoroughly evaluated as part of the BDCP's Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement review process scheduled to get underway this spring, a sound process we continue to support.

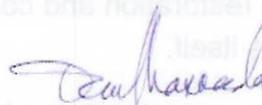
We are confident that the BDCP process will lead to a better understanding of alternative courses of action and create the necessary support for the final preferred alternative.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for placing California on the brink of historic action in the Delta.

Sincerely,



Jill Duerig, General Manager
Zone 7 Water Agency of Eastern
Alameda County



Dan Masnada, General Manager
Castaic Lake Water Agency

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William J. Brennan, Executive Director
Central Coast Water Authority



Jim Barrett, Interim General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District



Douglas D. Headrick, General Manager
San Bernardino Valley Municipal
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Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California