

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**

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July 29, 2015

Joseph Byrne
Chair

Dear Union of Concerned Scientists,

Joe Del Bosque
Vice Chair

This letter is responding to emails sent to the California Water Commission (Commission) from members of the Union of Concerned Scientists. The emails ask the Commission to “make sure new water investments account for climate change” as we develop our Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP).

Andrew Ball
Member

Daniel Curtin
Member

Paula Daniels
Member

The Commission agrees that “investments in water infrastructure must serve the state far into the future” and is committed to ensuring that climate change is accounted for as it develops the WSIP and makes investments in water storage projects.

Maria Herrera
Member

David Orth
Member

The Governor’s Water Action Plan recognizes the effects that climate change will have on water management in California, including decreasing snowpack, changing runoff patterns, higher temperatures and sea level rise. The strategies in the Water Action Plan, including *Action 6: Expand Water Storage Capacity and Improve Water Management*, are designed to “help protect our resources from more frequent and more severe dry periods which threaten the health of our natural systems and our ability to meet our diverse water supply and water quality needs.” As the Commission works to achieve the vision of this and other actions in the Governor’s Water Action Plan through the development of the WSIP, we understand the role we will have in enhancing California’s water system to improve resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Armando Quintero
Member

Paula J. Landis
Executive Officer

The Commission’s Water Storage Investment [Program Goals, Objectives, and Principles](#) document describes the framework in which the WSIP will be planned and executed. One of the Commission’s overarching goals for the WSIP is to “maximize system resiliency to ensure public benefits are provided in an uncertain future (e.g., under climate change scenarios).” Key program principles support the California Water Action Plan, using the best available science, and to develop and implement the program, “in accordance with Executive Order B-30-15 and special consideration will be given to actions that both build climate preparedness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; take flexible and adaptive approaches for uncertain climate impacts; protect the state’s most vulnerable populations; and consider natural infrastructure solutions.”

We hope that members of the Union Concerned Scientists will continue to provide us critical feedback as we develop the WSIP, and stay involved though the many opportunities for public participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula J. Landis".

Paula J. Landis
Executive Officer