

From: [SUSAN MACH](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Delta Tunnels
Date: Friday, November 6, 2020 7:39:04 PM

To Whom it Concerns,

I'm writing to comment on the plans for the Delta Tunnels.

In October's meeting, we learned that there were \$34 million in refunds from the failed CA WaterFix project reimbursed to MWD by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). I'm writing to urge you not to spend those funds on the Delta project, but instead to put the funds towards alternative projects that will reduce reliance on imported water.

Why won't anyone use the reimbursement money to look into alternatives MWD is hard to the Delta Conveyance project? In fact, no one, including DWR, is doing this research. Researching local alternatives to the Delta Conveyance will keep jobs local, offer reliable sources of water, and spare us the expense of the Delta Conveyance project.

Water demands have declined over the last four years and the trend is expected to continue. With the reduced demands, an increase in regional water recycling and potable water reuse ideas, new intakes will not be necessary.

On November 5 in their SEC meeting, DWR engineers repeatedly said that "there is no [Delta Tunnel] project" when questioned about the potential effects on communities, so what are we paying \$16 billion for if there's no project?

Please strongly and carefully consider all alternatives to the disruptive Delta conveyance ideas. We must get this right in order not to damage California.

Sincerely,

Susan Mach

[1328 N Erin Ave](#)

[Upland CA 91786](#)

Susan.mach@gmail.com



November 9, 2020

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

On behalf of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA), we are writing in strong support of Metropolitan funding of the state's environmental review and planning process for the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project, our best source of reliable, high-quality and affordable water. The recommended funding share ensures the environmental review is advanced and necessary planning can proceed.

Metropolitan's tradition of leadership and strong stewardship starts with good planning. Continued investment in the environmental review and planning process for an updated Delta conveyance system ensures this process, which is essential for future decision-making, moves forward in a timely fashion and avoids further costly delays for this critically important project.

Nearly one-third of Southern California's water supply comes from the Sierra Nevada. This resource provides the backbone water supply for about 29 million people statewide, millions of acres of farmland, Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy and our environment. Modernizing the aging system that delivers this water is vitally important. It will help ensure we are better prepared for the effects of climate change and earthquakes, as well as bring greater resilience to the Delta waterways and its ecosystem.

This is not an either/or situation; it is a both/and situation. Southern California is working diligently to reduce its reliance on the Delta. The Delta conveyance project is one of many steps we must take to ensure the region's water resiliency. Southern California is doing its part – actively diversifying its portfolio by developing local projects and investing in water efficiency. Still, the success of these local projects, including recycling projects, depends on a reliable supply of the higher quality water from Northern California.

Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio prioritizes a one-tunnel Delta conveyance system as essential to ensuring reliable water for generations to come. We continue to support efforts that advance this project because Southern California depends on the reliability the proposed Delta project will provide. With our largest and most affordable supply at risk, Metropolitan needs to provide funding now, ensuring the project continues to move forward with needed environmental planning and permitting work so that an informed decision on the project itself can be made in the future.

VICA urges Metropolitan's Board of Directors to help fund the environmental review and planning process for the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brad Rosenheim
VICA Chair

Stuart Waldman
VICA President

November 9, 2020

Chair Gloria Gray

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Position: SUPPORT

The **Southwest California Legislative Council** is an advocacy coalition comprised of representative members of the Temecula Valley, Murrieta/Wildomar, Lake Elsinore Valley, and Menifee Valley Chambers of Commerce representing more than 3,500 employers dedicated to promoting job growth, economic expansion, and preserving the overall global competitiveness of California. Our businesses and residents rely on water provided by Metropolitan and the State Water Project, our best source of reliable, high-quality and affordable water.

To that end, **SWCLC strongly supports Metropolitan's funding** of the state's environmental review and planning process for the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project. The recommended funding share ensures the environmental review is advanced and necessary planning can proceed.

Metropolitan's tradition of leadership and strong stewardship starts with good planning. Continued investment in the environmental review and planning process for an updated Delta conveyance system ensures this process, which is essential for future decision-making, moves forward in a timely fashion and avoids further costly delays for this critically important project.

Nearly one-third of Southern California's water supply comes from the Sierra Nevada. This resource provides the backbone water supply for about 29 million people statewide, millions of acres of farmland, Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy and our environment. Modernizing the aging system that delivers this water is vitally important. It will help ensure we are better prepared for the effects of climate change and earthquakes, and bring greater resilience to the Delta waterways and its ecosystem.

This is not an either/or situation; it is a both/and situation. Southern California is working diligently to reduce its reliance on the Delta. The Delta conveyance project is one of many steps we must take to ensure the region's water resiliency. Southern California is doing its part – actively diversifying its portfolio by developing local projects and investing in water efficiency. Still, the success of these local projects, including recycling projects, depends on a reliable supply of the higher quality water from Northern California.

For example, our local groundwater supplies are replenished with imported water – there isn't enough local rainfall to refill the groundwater basins. And recycling water for use again and again requires starting with high-quality source water, like that delivered by the State Water Project, to make it cost-effective. Local projects like *Diamond Valley Lake* and *Lake Skinner* provide valuable local resources, but must continue to be augmented with water delivered by the SWP.

Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio prioritizes a one-tunnel Delta conveyance system as essential to ensuring reliable water for generations to come. We continue to support efforts that advance this project because Southern California depends on the reliability the proposed Delta project will provide. With our largest and most affordable supply at risk, Metropolitan needs to provide funding now, ensuring the project continues to move forward with needed environmental planning and permitting work so that an informed decision on the project itself can be made in the future.

For these and other reasons, the **Southwest California Legislative Council** urges Metropolitan's Board of Directors to help fund the environmental review and planning process for the project. Making this investment now will avoid costly delays and allow Metropolitan's Board to make an informed decision in the near future on whether to fund construction of the project. With our largest and most affordable supply at risk, we need the reliability the proposed Delta conveyance project will provide. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Adam A. Ruiz, Chair

adam@1stactionrealestate.com



Gene Wunderlich, Legislative Liaison

gad@swcaladvocacy.com



November 9, 2020

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairwoman Gray:

On behalf of Inland Empire Economic Partnership, which is comprised of the larger employers in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, we are writing in strong support of Metropolitan funding of the state's environmental review and planning process for the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project, our best source of reliable, high-quality and affordable water. The recommended funding share ensures the environmental review is advanced and necessary planning can proceed.

Metropolitan's tradition of leadership and strong stewardship starts with good planning. Continued investment in the environmental review and planning process for an updated Delta conveyance system ensures this process, which is essential for future decision-making, moves forward in a timely fashion and avoids further costly delays for this critically important project.

Nearly one-third of Southern California's water supply comes from the Sierra Nevada. This resource provides the backbone water supply for about 29 million people statewide, millions of acres of farmland, Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy and our environment. Modernizing the aging system that delivers this water is vitally important. It will help ensure we are better prepared for the effects of climate change and earthquakes, and bring greater resilience to the Delta waterways and its ecosystem.

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Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio prioritizes a one-tunnel Delta conveyance system as essential to ensuring reliable water for generations to come. We continue to support efforts that advance this project because Southern California depends on the reliability the proposed Delta project will provide. With our largest and most affordable supply at risk, Metropolitan needs to provide funding now, ensuring the project continues to move forward with needed environmental planning and permitting work so that an informed decision on the project itself can be made in the future.

We urge Metropolitan's Board of Directors to help fund the environmental review and planning process for the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul C. Granillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul Granillo
President & CEO

MWD INTEREST IN DELTA CONVEYANCE

SOME CONSIDERATIONS

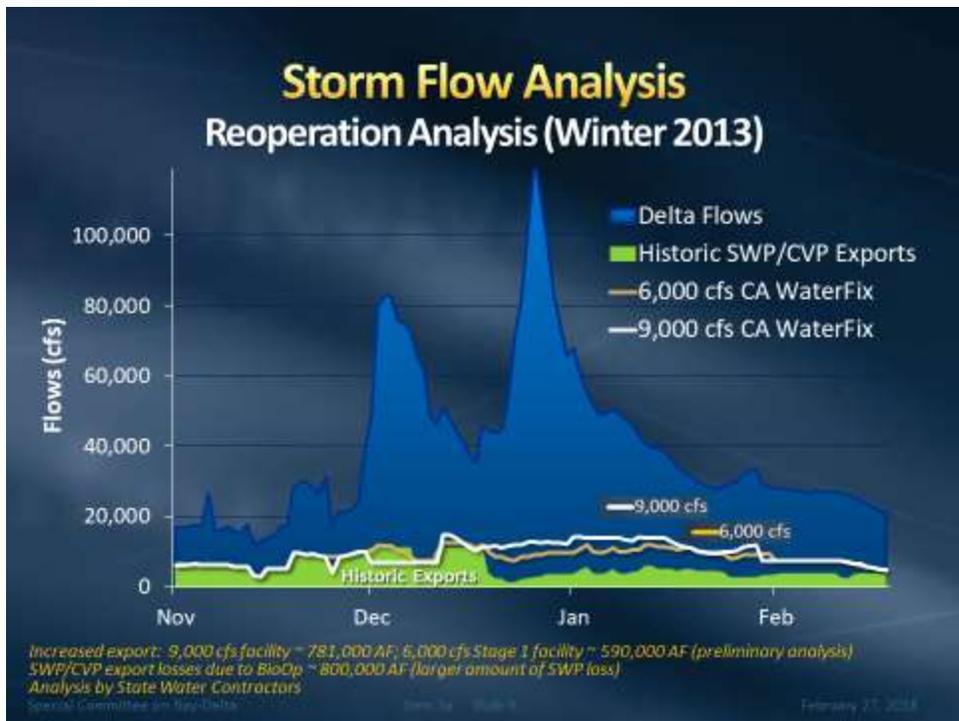
Dir. Russell Lefevre

On Wednesday September 23, Michael George, the Delta Watermaster for the State Water Resources Control Board, spoke at the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Water Policy Forum. He spoke about the delta as it exists and how to address a number of potential futures. One important observation he made was that in the future due to climate change, precipitation events will cause water to come in bursts that would be very expensive to capture. He referred to a sense that it would be a good idea to capture the water before it went into the ocean. He suggested that it would take a massive gulp to obtain that water and it would be very expensive. Further it would be idle most of the time, only active in the presence of an atmospheric river. This technique is not necessarily the only method to capture water coming in large, swift increments. The single tunnel Delta Conveyance is capable of capturing enough of the water coming from the Atmospheric Rivers to alleviate many drought situations.

One key benefit of the single tunnel Delta Conveyance is to allow a less impactful way of diverting water under the State and federal Endangered Species regulations and at the same time improving supply reliability. This and other considerations are important and necessary to adjust to the difficult conditions from climate change. However, one element that has not received enough attention is that the Delta Conveyance would provide the State Water Project (SWP) greater capability to allow agencies to store water in wetter periods for use during drought conditions or dry times. For example, the drought of 2014 resulted in an extremely low SWP allocation of 10%. A paper published on 3 December 2014 in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* by Griffin & Anchukaitis concludes that the 2012–2014 drought in California was its most intense in at least 1,200 years. However, on December 11 and 12, 2014 California received a major precipitation event from atmospheric rivers. These events had limited opportunity to alleviate the drought situation because the existing infrastructure is limited in capturing the large amount of flow in the Delta.

To illustrate what might be possible, the State Water Contractors did a storm flow analysis of winter periods in 2013 and 2016. The analyses for 2013 indicated that with a capacity of 6,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), a Delta Conveyance system could potentially capture about 590 TAF of the storm water. In addition, the north Delta intakes would enable the SWP to manage more effectively while still meeting Endangered Species regulations to protect fisheries (divert from the north intakes instead of the south Delta). The captured water could have made a major difference in the amount of water stored and available to help alleviate the drought conditions of 2014.

Given that the actual MWD SWP allocation was 100 TAF that year, the ability to capture supply from the northern intakes during the storm events could have added about 300 TAF for MWD (assuming MWD gets at least 50 percent of the 590 TAF storm capture).



For 2016, the analysis showed that the system could capture an additional supply from storm runoff of about 800 TAF compared to current capabilities. This analysis was done for the two tunnel 9000 cfs WaterFix. Without such infrastructure, none of that water could be captured.



The Scripps' Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes has stated that "Atmospheric river storms cause 40-60 percent of annual precipitation..." As shown above, the ability to capture a portion of that water could enable the State to withstand major drought events over significant time periods.

This indicates that even in drier times, California's hydrology would still produce Atmospheric River events with substantial precipitation and runoff. When that happens, the proposed Delta Conveyance could capture several hundred thousands of acre feet not presently available for diversion in the south Delta.

It is important to note that the hydrology is uncertain but the importance of even a single set of atmospheric river events can have a major impact. We have recently had one of the wettest years in history and at the end of the period, the MWD has the largest amount of water in storage on record. Jeff Kightlinger has stated that we can withstand as many as 5 years of drought with our present water in storage.

With global warming, the proposed Delta Conveyance infrastructure will be needed to cope with the expected acceleration of the trends in the global hydrologic cycle. "Evidence and projection show precipitation extremes will be more extreme" (1)

The authors point out that the "double whammy" effect of reduced snow (acting as storage) and significantly enhanced rain will make it more challenging for water managers to insure the reliability of water. The Delta Conveyance would provide modernized capability to capture water with atmospheric storms and will also allow the recharge of reservoirs and other storage accounts.

When looking at the importance of Delta Conveyance improvements for the SWP, it is important to examine at the same time what MWD faces with its other source of imported supply, the Colorado River Aqueduct. The 2015 IRP report estimated that the CRA would supply approximately 960,000 AF through 2040. Due to climate change it is unlikely that amount of water could be expected through 2040. Furthermore, in 2026 it will be necessary to renegotiate many conditions associated with the Colorado including the shortage criteria in the Lower Basin and the Intentionally Created Surplus program.

One recent White Paper looked carefully at the potential future in the Colorado River Basin. They examined three previous drought scenarios including the recent 2000-2018 "Millennium Drought". The article indicates the cumulative water loss compared to average conditions for this recent period was 44.08 million acre-feet over the 19 years. Other droughts indicated more loss. The authors noted that such droughts may be more likely due to the increasing effects of a warming climate. The authors included Brad Udall who has spoken to the MWD Board and was considered as a consultant to our IRP project.

The article notes that the scenarios examined are reflective of droughts that are within the range in severity of the droughts derived from climate projections. However they suggest that there could be more severe future droughts than those examined in the study.

They examined the impact of various hydrologic scenarios on lake levels. One conclusion is that under historically plausible drought situations, a considerable fraction of the scenarios and sequences indicate that the reservoir elevation of Lake Powell would fall below minimum power pool, and even in some cases below the penstock intake levels. Under that condition, there could be situations when the only

possible significant imported water would come from capturing some portion of the flow from the atmospheric rivers.

The considerations in this paper are intended to articulate my view that we need to have a long-term vision on how climate change is affecting each of our region's sources. We will need to adapt and adjust on both the SWP and Colorado River. We also will have uncertainty with our local supplies with the effects of climate change. We should be supporting the State's planning efforts to consider and evaluate those measures that make sense for the SWP.

1. Xingying Huang, Samantha Stevenson, Alex D. Hall "Future Warming and Intensification of Precipitation Extremes: A "Double Whammy" Leading to Increasing Flood Risk in California" Geophysical Research Letters/Volume 47, Issue 16 10 August 2020
2. Home Salehabadi, David Tarboton, Eric Kuhn, Brad Udall, Kevin Wheeler, David Rosenberg, Sara Gorking, John C. Schmidt "The Future Hydrology of the Colorado River Basin" The Future of the Colorado River Project White Paper No. 4, 8/31/2020



November 2, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California

The Honorable Gloria Gray
Chair, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Ms. Karla Nemeth
Director, California Department of Water Resources

Mr. Joaquin Esquivel
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board

Mr. Chuck Bonham
Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Subject: Advancing the Single-Tunnel Delta Conveyance Solution

Dear Governor Newsom, Director Nemeth, Chair Esquivel, and Director Bonham:

On behalf of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC), I write to convey the organization's complete support for an improved Delta Conveyance. SCWC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership devoted to informing Southern California about water needs and our state's water resources. Through a variety of tools, including advocacy, SCWC works to ensure our region has a reliable water supply.

The SCWC urges the state to advance the single-tunnel Delta Conveyance project. Modernizing our state's aging water delivery system is critical to creating a more resilient water supply for 27 million California residents, 750,000 acres of agriculture land, and businesses.

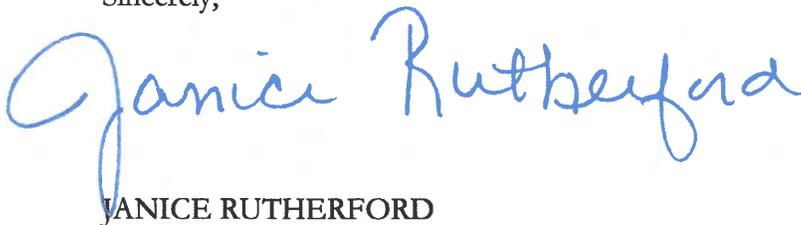
About two-thirds of California's water supply originates in the Sierra Nevada mountains and is delivered through the antiquated State Water Project. In Southern California, we rely on this water delivery infrastructure as it provides the highest quality and most affordable water supply available to us. Reinforcing the infrastructure that delivers one of the lowest cost water supplies is absolutely essential, especially as California takes a hard look at water affordability. Investing in a Delta Conveyance project is the most cost-effective way to secure our water future.

Advancing the single-tunnel Delta Conveyance project is an essential step we must take to ensure water resiliency for California. The proposed project is also a key element of the Governor's portfolio approach to water management in the state. In addition, the high quality water supply the State Water Project provides supports many other elements of the Governor's portfolio, such as sustained water recycling.

For these reasons, the SCWC supports the single-tunnel Delta conveyance solution. We urge you and the Administration to share our sense of urgency to advance implementation of the Delta Conveyance; the vulnerabilities of earthquakes and levee failure are not acceptable.

Thank you for your consideration. If I, or the SCWC, can be a resource, please contact me at (909) 387-4833 or Supervisor.Rutherford@bos.sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



JANICE RUTHERFORD
Chair, Southern California Water Coalition
Supervisor, County of San Bernardino