



Chambers of Commerce Alliance

VENTURA & SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES

September 20, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Secretary Sally Jewell
United States Dept. of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Solving California's Water Challenges

Dear Governor Brown and Secretary Jewell,

On behalf of the Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, I am writing to endorse your efforts to identify solutions to California's water challenges. Our region in particular relies on imported water for much of our supplies. As much as our communities, businesses and taxpayers have invested in effective water conservation practices, imported water remains a vital resource.

The Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta region, through which we draw State Water Project supplies, is increasingly vulnerable to climate change, major storms, and earthquakes, all of which could negatively impact 25 million Californians throughout the state representing many diverse industries. Of course, there are also environmental and public health impacts.

Like you, the Chamber Alliance recognizes that it is time for California to abandon the status quo and advance a new plan -- the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) -- which will restore and protect the Delta environment and ensure that California has a reliable water supply for years to come.

The construction of a new water conveyance is an essential element of the BDCP. The proposed twin tunnel system will protect public water supplies if a seismic event -- which the U.S. Geological Survey predicts in the coming years -- were to trigger levee breaks and cause saltwater to intrude from San Francisco Bay. New intakes in the northern Delta will reduce conflicts with migrating fish species such as salmon. And 50 years of regulatory stability will protect an estimated 1.1 million jobs throughout the state and create more than 177,000 jobs from construction projects and operations, according to a noted University of California, Berkeley professor.

Southern California is rebuilding its aging infrastructure to ensure its water supplies are reliable. We need the same kind of investment in the State Water Project to safeguard our imported supplies. A project of such magnitude will require some difficult decisions and compromise between stakeholders with varying priorities. However, California cannot sit idly by and wait for disaster.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Brendan L. Huffman, Executive Director
Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties