

For Immediate Release: May 10, 2023 Contact: Nicolette Velazquez (916) 384-7630

STATEWIDE POLL SHOWS 76% OF VOTERS SUPPORT THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT TO MODERNIZE CA'S MAIN WATER DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE

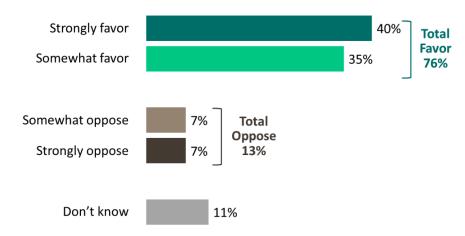
Voter from all Parties, Regions, Ethnicities Support Delta Conveyance Project

Sacramento – Today, Californians for Water Security released results of a <u>recent statewide poll</u> showing that voters across all regions, political parties and major demographics are highly supportive of the Governor's Delta Conveyance Project.

Seventy-six percent (76%) of voters say they support the Delta Conveyance Project when read a description, including 40% of voters that strongly favor the project. Only 13% of voters oppose the project.

Figure 2: Favor/Oppose Upgrading the Delta Conveyance Project & Building Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Tunnel After Project Summary

PROJECT SUMMARY STATEMENT: "More than two-thirds of Californians rely on the state water project – a system of dirt levees, canals and pipes to transport water long distances from the Sierra Nevada Mountains through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to homes, farms and businesses in the Bay Area, Northern California, Central Valley, Southern California and San Diego. This system is more than 60 years old and engineers say it is outdated and must be modernized to continue operating reliably. The project would upgrade California's primary water delivery infrastructure, **including building a new tunnel underneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**, as well as upgrading pumps and levees to carry and deliver the water more reliably throughout the state."



And voters across party and region also strongly support the project, with 81% of Democrats, 65% of Republicans and 76% of No Party Preference voters expressing support.

Figure 3: Favor/Oppose Upgrading the Delta Conveyance Project & Building Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Tunnel After Project Summary by Party & Region

Demographic Group	Total Favor	Total Oppose	Don't Know
PARTY AFFILIATION			
Democrats	81%	10%	9%
No Party Preference /Other	76%	12%	12%
Republicans	65%	20%	15%
REGION			
Los Angeles County	80%	11%	9%
Counties Surrounding Los Angeles County	79%	10%	11%
Bay Area	73%	13%	14%
San Diego	78%	8%	14%
Sacramento/Rural North	64%	30%	6%
Central Coast/Central Valley	74%	17%	19%
Inland Empire	79%	9%	12%

"Californians are saying loud and clear: it's time to move forward with the Delta Conveyance Project to improve the reliability of our state's water supply," said **Jennifer Pierre, General Manager of the State Water Contractors**.

"The local infrastructure that supplies water to 2/3 of our state is in serious need of modernization and is more vulnerable than ever due to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change," said **Charles Wilson, Executive Director & CEO of Southern California Water Coalition**. "As this poll shows, Californians know the Delta Conveyance Project is the right project at the right time to help ensure the State Water Project can continue to meet California's water needs into the future."

BACKGROUND:

Currently, two-thirds of water for Californians starts in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and flows through the state's main water distribution system through the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta to other parts of the state, including the Bay Area, Central Valley, the Central Coast and Southern California. But this system is aging, vulnerable to natural disasters, and must be updated to better protect against climate change.

The Delta Conveyance Project would:

- **Protect water security for two-thirds of the state.** Without action, water supplies through our main distribution infrastructure will continue to decrease.
- **Improve the reliability and security of our water system** by fixing aging infrastructure using the most innovative technologies and engineering practices.
- **Protect water supplies from earthquakes, floods and natural disasters** by delivering them through a modern water pipeline, rather than solely through today's deteriorating levee system.
- Prepare for the impacts of climate change by improving our ability to move and store water to account for extreme swings in drought and flood and to protect against salinity caused by sealevel rise.
- Serve as a critical component of a comprehensive water portfolio.

*The poll, conducted by FM3 Research, surveyed 1099 likely California voters from 2/9 – 2/16, with a margin of error of 3.1%.

For more information, please visit: <u>www.watersecurityca.com</u>