



October 15, 2018

Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street
Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CA WaterFix Consistent to the State's Co-Equal Goals for the Delta (WaterFix C20185)

Dear Delta Stewardship Council:

On July 27, 2018, the California Department of Water Resources submitted its determination that California WaterFix meets the state's co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply while protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta Ecosystem. This letter represents our overwhelming support of DWR's thoroughly vetted determination.

Here in Southern California, we pride ourselves on being leaders in meeting the state's co-equal goals through innovative water efficiency projects. Our broad-based coalition also recognizes that these collective efforts alone are not enough to solve our state's water and environmental challenges. There's a critical need to modernize and upgrade the state's aging and primary water delivery system for the benefit of all Californians, our economy and the environment.

Our coalition represents vastly diverse and prominent constituencies statewide from labor and business to public agencies, environmental, nonprofits and agriculture. Together, we firmly support California WaterFix. It is the only cost-effective solution that secures our state's backbone supply while simultaneously improving the Delta ecosystem. It's a win-win.

California WaterFix is advancing on the path to construction with resounding support from our powerful coalition and the public. It will ensure that nearly 27 million Californians will have clean, reliable and affordable water for generations. The project is also the result of more than a decade of extensive technical, environmental and academic review — and an unprecedented level of public review and comment. Over the past 11 years, more than 600 public meetings, workshops, working groups, and stakeholder briefings have been held to gather community feedback on California WaterFix. More than 16,000 public comment letters have been received and responded to during several environmental review periods. All of this serves as evidence of the state's commitment to scientific-based solutions that advance our co-equal goals — and public transparency of its review process.





Scientific evidence demonstrates we've arrived at a new climate reality — one that includes recurring droughts, rising sea levels and extreme weather patterns that will continue to wreak havoc on our quality of life and environment. As a region, we recognize the need to proactively find flexible and efficient solutions to address the strain that climate change places on our water delivery system. We've established robust water conservation programs while simultaneously making significant investments in local and regional supply projects that align with the Delta Plan — including recycling, groundwater storage and recharge, desalination and stormwater capture projects. These projects advance the state's co-equal goals, and the fact remains, they would not be possible without a stable, baseline supply.

California WaterFix is a critical part of the "all of the above" strategy to reduce our reliance on the natural watershed and increase regional self-sufficiency. It is inarguably the most comprehensive and affordable solution to the state's water reliability and environmental challenges.

In closing, we call on the Council to align with the state's consistency determination — and more than a decade of scientific research and vetting. Our state desperately needs a solution, and California WaterFix checks all the boxes.

Sincerely,

Charles Wilson
Executive Director





