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MEMBER AGENCY OF THE  
METROPOLITAN WATER  
DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Glen D. Peterson**

MWD Representative

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December 16, 2022

Ms. Karla Nemeth, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
Attn: Delta Conveyance Office  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**Support for Delta Conveyance Project and Comments on Draft  
Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Director Nemeth:

On behalf of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD), I am writing to express our strong support for the Delta Conveyance Project and provide comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The need to modernize the conveyance system through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta has never been greater. California is experiencing accelerating effects of climate change with rising temperatures, declining snowpack, reduced runoff, more frequent and intense periods of rainfall and drought, and increasing occurrence of wildfire. Successful adaptation to climate impacts will require that we make significant investments in our local, regional, and statewide water delivery systems to handle both the current and future challenges.

LVMWD is among the most severely impacted agencies in Southern California by the on-going statewide drought emergency. The acute impact to our District and its customers is driven by two factors: (1) the lack of local water supplies in the region, and (2) our current, exclusive dependence on imported supplies from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for drinking water. Given LVMWD's location in MWD's service territory, we are part of an area referred to as "State Water Project dependent" and facing a 73% reduction in water deliveries. Minimum human health and safety (HH&S) deliveries have been a lifeline for our customers who have conserved more than 36% from June 1st through November 30th, as compared to the same period in 2020. However, we collectively need to be better prepared for the future and cannot be reliant on HH&S deliveries from the State Water Project to meet basic needs.

At LVMWD, we recognize the shared responsibility to provide a reliable supply of water to the people of California. To that end, we remain focused on long-term water use efficiency and advancing a \$364-million potable reuse project, called the *Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo*. Upon completion, the project will produce approximately 15% of our drinking water supply locally. When considered together with our long-standing non-potable water recycling program, LVMWD will be able to meet 35% of its customers' demands with local, drought-resilient supplies. The success of our *Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo*, and others throughout Southern California, depends on a reliable and high-quality supply of water from the State Water Project.

Ms. Karla Nemeth, Director  
December 16, 2022  
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Publication of the draft EIR represents the culmination of extensive expert review; planning; scientific and environmental analysis by the state's leading water experts, engineers and conservationists; and unprecedented public comment and participation. The draft EIR demonstrates a remarkable accomplishment to identify a proposed project that aims to maximize water supply benefits, minimize impacts to Delta communities, address the impacts of climate change and enhance the strained Delta ecosystem. And, the project refinements have substantially reduced the environmental impacts.

With respect to alternatives, LVMWD supports the selection of *Alternative 5, Dual Conveyance Bethany Reservoir Alignment*. The project consists of the construction, operation, and maintenance of new State Water Project diversion and conveyance facilities in the Delta that would be operated in coordination with the existing facilities. The new water conveyance facilities would divert up to 6,000 cubic feet per second of water from two new north Delta intakes through state-of-the-art fish screens and convey it via a single tunnel along an eastern alignment to the Bethany Reservoir.

The *Bethany Reservoir Alignment* provides the following important benefits:

- Protects water supplies by delivering them through a modern water pipeline, rather than relying solely on the vulnerable levee system throughout the Delta;
- Builds a water delivery system that is able to protect our water supplies from earthquakes, floods, and natural disasters;
- Improves the ability to move water to storage facilities throughout the state, so it can be captured for use in dry years;
- Avoids wetlands and other waters impacted by alternate routes; and
- Provides a direct connection to Bethany Reservoir, creating system redundancy and complementing the State Water Project's existing intake and pumping system in the southern Delta.

We appreciate the perseverance and leadership of your Department and the Newsom Administration to advance the Delta Conveyance Project. The long-term reliability of the State Water Project and sustainability of the Delta ecosystem are essential to the future of California's 39 million residents. We are hopeful that the EIR can be finalized and certified to move this critical project from planning to implementation and construction.

Sincerely,



David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
General Manager

DWP:dwp

cc: LVMWD Board and MWD Representative  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California