



402 West Broadway, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-3585
p: 619.544.1300

www.sdchamber.org

November 30, 2020

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

Subject: Funding for Delta Conveyance Project

Dear Chairwoman Gray:

On behalf of San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), I'm writing in support of further exploration of Metropolitan 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. Historically, the Chamber is very supportive of studying options that enhance water supply reliability for our almost 2,500 member businesses in the region, and approximately 300,000 jobs.

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 that this process, key for making data-driven decisions, moves forward in a timely fashion and avoids further costly delays for this project.

Nearly one-third of Southern California's water supply comes from the Sierra Nevada range. 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 while potentially bringing greater resilience to the Delta waterways and its ecosystem.

This need not be an either/or situation. Southern California is working diligently to reduce its reliance on the Delta. The Delta conveyance project is one of many opportunities 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. However, the success of these local projects, including recycling projects, is still dependent on a reliable supply of 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. The Chamber is interested in and

monitoring efforts that advance this project because Southern California depends on the reliability the proposed Delta project will provide. With a large and affordable supply at risk, Metropolitan has an obligation to ensure projects such as the Delta Conveyance continue to move forward with needed environmental planning and permitting work so that informed decisions can be made in the future.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sanders', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jerry Sanders
President & CEO
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce