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July 22, 2016

SENT VIA EMAIL: CWFhearing@waterboards.ca.gov

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair and Co-Hearing Officer
The Honorable Tam Doduc, Member and Co-Hearing Officer
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

SUBJECT: SBVMWD Policy Statement: California WaterFix is Vital to our Region's Future

Dear Co-Hearing Officers Marcus and Doduc,

The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) was formed in 1954 for the purpose of bringing a supplemental supply of water to our region. After several years of research and investigations, it was determined that the proposed State Water Project was the best way for our region to secure its water supply reliability future. Thus, in 1960 Valley District was the second agency to sign an agreement with the State of California, Department of Water Resources for a supply of water from the State Water Project. Since then, our customers, currently 750,000 Californians, have been dutifully paying all the costs associated with this imported water supply. State Water Project water is delivered to water treatment plants and extensively for groundwater recharge throughout our service area on a year-around basis and is an integral part of the water resource portfolio of our region. Therefore, Valley District strongly supports the California WaterFix project.

Our region still suffers from the effects of the economic meltdown caused by the mortgage crisis of the last decade. We serve some of the most economically disadvantaged communities in the State of California. It would be catastrophic to add to the region's woes by jeopardizing its economic vitality through water scarcity. Our customers deserve to receive the supply that they have, and continue to, pay for just like those in other areas of California. It is unfortunate that some of the most vocal opponents of the California WaterFix are those that already have their pipelines diverting water around, under, or through the Delta. It is only reasonable that San Bernardino Valley residents should be offered the same opportunity to have access to water it secured decades ago.

The California WaterFix will improve the five decade old State Water Project and bring it into the 21st century in terms of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. The

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General Manager

proposed three north diversions along the Sacramento River and the conveyance pipelines under the Delta comprise the best alternative to meeting the co-equal goals of increased water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration. These new facilities will maintain the ability to deliver water to our customers that is available for use because upstream facilities were built to capture and deliver winter flood flows. Without these facilities, much of the water we are diverting would have been in the Pacific Ocean months or years before as part of massive, uncontrolled floods.

The California WaterFix will allow for more effective management of water supplies while improving habitat for fish and other species in and around the Delta. This improvement comes from the ability to better utilize wet year flows to help us through the dry years. Sea level rise and the other inherent risks associated with climate change demand that the State of California move expeditiously toward a science-based solution like California WaterFix. The livelihoods of 25 million people and 3 million acres of agriculture depend on the success of this vital project.

Seldom does an opportunity to make significant and lasting change that benefits so many people present itself. The California WaterFix is our chance to prove to our predecessors and to future generations of Californians alike that we have the determination and courage to solve the water supply and ecosystem challenges facing us.

For these reasons, Valley District strongly supports the request from the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation to add points of diversion for the California Water Fix Project.

Sincerely,



Douglas D. Headrick
General Manager