



May 30, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Comm
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Budget Sub Comm #2
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett
Chair, Assm. Budget Sub Comm #4
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Delta Conveyance Project Streamlining Trailer Bill

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem McGuire, Speaker Rivas, Chairs Wiener, Gabriel, Allen and Bennett,

On behalf of a broad coalition of interests in the Inland Empire, we urge your strong support for the budget trailer bill that is intended to streamline processes for advancing the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) to a point where informed decisions can be made regarding construction investment.

Inland Empire Focus

San Bernardino and Riverside counties are home to over five million Southern Californian residents and one of the fastest growing areas of the state. Water agencies, through their ratepayers, have invested BILLIONS of dollars to ensure water supply reliability through recycled water, water-use efficiency, stormwater capture, brackish desalination and water conservation. These efforts have reduced our reliance on imported water, but imported supplies remain crucial to ensuring safe and affordable water for all residents of the Inland Empire.

CEQA Review and Public Engagement Maintained

This budget trailer bill is NOT about circumventing public engagement and review – this budget trailer bill is all about breaking through redundant, archaic processes that result in endless delays, duplicative reviews, and millions upon millions of dollars of additive costs, while impeding the State’s ability to complete critical, needed infrastructure projects.

For decades, the DCP has been stalled by frivolous lawsuits and duplicative reviews. These are the universal problems facing major infrastructure projects throughout California, and foundational to why it is so difficult to advance major infrastructure that would protect the public health and safety of millions of Californians to completion.

The budget trailer bill proposal restores balance to this process – ensuring legitimate concerns are addressed, while removing tools for obstruction and delay. Every year of delay in construction of the DCP costs California’s water ratepayers – including nearly eight million people living in disadvantaged communities – approximately \$500 million. The budget trailer bill proposal reduces bureaucratic red tape, which translates into real savings for Californians and for the State budget.

Delta Conveyance is a Crucial Component to Adapt to Climate Change

The DCP is a critical component of California's plans to fortify the State Water Project (SWP) in preparation for the impacts of extreme weather and climate change. The SWP delivers water to more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland and is the engine that powers California's economic success. However, this system is vulnerable to extreme weather and unpredictable precipitation patterns and, as a result, our state's main water supply is at serious risk.

According to the Department of Water Resources' SWP Delivery Capability Report, the SWP is expected [to lose up to 23% of its supply in the next 20 years](#) due to changing flow patterns and extreme weather shifts. It is critical that we act *NOW* to prepare California's water infrastructure to protect the long-term reliability and affordability of water for the millions of Californian homes and businesses that rely upon the SWP.

Conclusion

The proposed trailer bill smooths administrative processes to help move the Delta Conveyance Project in a way that balances environmental protections while improving the efficiency of the review and approval process.

It needs to be said, that this DCP *"is not your grandparent's water conveyance project."* The DCP has been redesigned to be smaller, more environmentally responsive, and less intrusive to Delta communities. At the same time, the DCP will generate thousands of good-paying union construction jobs and stimulate local economies, especially in areas hardest hit by economic downturns and drought-related agricultural cutbacks.

For these reasons, **our coalition urges you to support the Delta Conveyance Trailer Bill.** We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Mosher, General Manager
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E., General Manager
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Craig D. Miller, P.E., General Manager
Western Water

Joe Mouawad, P.E.,
Eastern Municipal Water District

Danielle Holley, Executive Director
Fontana Chamber of Commerce

John Thiel, General Manager
West Valley Water District

Peggi Hazlett, President/CEO
Greater Ontario Business Council

John Bosler, P.E. General Manager/CEO
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Scott Burton, P.E., Utilities General Manager
City of Ontario

Jason A. Martin, General Manager
Rancho California Water District

Erin Sasse, Chair
Southwest California Legislative Council

Greg Thomas, General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Justin Scott-Coe, General Manager
Monte Vista Water District

Jake Wiley, General Manager
Rainbow Municipal Water District

Patrick Ellis, CEO/President
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce

Arron Brown, City Manager
City of Canyon Lake

Michael M. Vargas, Mayor
City of Perris

Krista Chaich, Executive Director
Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association

Ashlee DePhillippo, Mayor
City of Wildomar

John Grande, Acting President
Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce

Nicholas Adcock, President and CEO
Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce

Brenden Kalfus, Mayor
City of Temecula

Joe Mouawad, P.E.,
Eastern Municipal Water District

Mayor Ricky Estrada
City of Menifee

Scott Burton, P.E., Utilities General Manager
City of Ontario

Connie Stopher, Executive Director
Economic Development Coalition

Greg Newton, Mayor
City of Norco

Lance Eckhart, General Manager
San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Tom Moody, Utilities Director
City of Corona

Brian Tisdale, Councilman, City of Lake Elsinore
WRCOG Advocacy Committee Chair
Western Riverside Council of Governments

cc: Members, Senate Budget Sub Committee #2
Members, Assembly Budget Sub Committee #4
Senator Limon, Chair, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee
Assemblymember Papan, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
Joanne Roy, Consultant, Senate Budget Committee
Christine Miyashiro, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Emylie Reeb, Senate Republican Consultant
Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Consultant
Christine Aurre, Office of the Governor