

November 25, 2020

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Via Email

RE: Delta Conveyance Project Environmental Review and Planning Funding

Dear Chairwoman Gray:

On behalf of the 244,000 businesses in Los Angeles and the 1,400 our member companies, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) supports the Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan) funding its portion of the environmental review and planning process for the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project. The Chamber is a long-standing advocate for an appropriately sized Delta conveyance project, which is Southern California's best source of reliable, high-quality, and affordable water. The recommended funding will ensure the environmental review is advanced and necessary planning can proceed.

A reliable and affordable water supply is critical for the future of our businesses and economy. Water from the Sierra Nevada forms the water backbone that supports Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy. This resource also supplies close to 74% of California's residents, and millions of acres of farmlands, with water. Modernizing the aging system is vital to ensure we're better prepared for the effects of climate change and earthquakes. Proper environmental review and planning will ensure both enhance resilience in the Delta waterways and its ecosystem, and that deliveries continue to support the approximately 29 million people statewide.

One of the top priorities for Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio is a one-tunnel solution. It recognizes that Delta conveyance is essential to ensure reliable water for future generations. An updated Delta conveyance system that will deliver the reliability we need requires good planning. Funding the environmental review and planning portion will ensure that Metropolitan maintains its tradition of leadership and strong stewardship. The critical components will be in place for future decision making that will move the project forward in a timely and cost effective manner.

Our regional efforts to develop and improve local water supply, like wastewater recycling, groundwater banking, and desalination depend on the reliability of the proposed Delta project. Despite these active investments, the success of these projects depends on high quality water from the Sierra Nevada.

For these reasons, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce urges the Board of Directors to fund Metropolitan's portion of the environmental review and planning for the project. If you have questions please contact Kendal Asuncion, Senior Manager, Public Policy, at kasuncion@lachamber.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Maria Salinas
President & CEO