

The following are two sample articles prepared by Metropolitan Water District's External Affairs Office on the proposed California Water Fix project. These can be that can be used in newsletters or other publications. If you have questions or need additional information, please email ExternalAffairsUpdates@mwdh2o.com.

Graphics, photographs or maps are available to accompany the newsletter at www.mwdh2o.com/waterfix or by contacting Metropolitan at the email address above.

Sample Article #1 for Chambers of Commerce, Community Newspapers

(380 words)

Southern California's regional economy was founded on an engineering feat that brought water from far away headwaters of the Colorado River and the Sierras hundreds of miles to the Southland. While our local water agencies are working hard to develop new regional supplies like recycled water and conservation, imported water still delivers more than half of the water needed for our region to continue to thrive and grow.

As the West approaches what could be a sixth year of drought, there is a growing sense of urgency to ensure we have reliable water supplies for businesses, families and communities into the future. This is why it is especially important for Southern Californians to be aware that after decades of population and economic growth, California's water system is in critical need of an infrastructure upgrade.

Much of the water delivered to Southern California comes through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project (SWP). This system provides approximately one-third of the water supply to Southern California's 19 million residents, and 100% of the supply to many residents in areas exclusively served by the SWP. But the Delta's declining ecosystem and 1,100-mile levee system are increasingly vulnerable. An earthquake or major levee failure in the Delta could cut off this vital water supply for several years.

California WaterFix and California EcoRestore are comprehensive solutions proposed by state and federal agencies to ensure our state has a reliable water supply for years to come. These plans represent the most comprehensive effort in our state's history to address the long-standing water system and ecosystem crisis in the Delta. The final environmental analyses for California WaterFix will soon be completed and a Record of Decision to approve the project is expected in the months ahead.

As these two projects advance, hundreds of civic and business organizations across the state are already on record to support California Water Fix. This project will support our \$1.7 trillion economy, 25 million residents, nearly 3 million acres of agriculture and more than 750 diverse plants and animal species. Our organization has supported investing in a reliable State Water Project in the past, and we must stay engaged over the coming months to see that final approvals move forward on California WaterFix for the continued growth of our economy.

[September 1, 2016](#)

Sample Article #2 for Chambers of Commerce, Community Newspapers

(~ About 400 words)

A few months from now, state and federal officials will make some of the most important decisions in decades to modernize California's water system.

For Southern Californians, the stakes could not be higher. About one-third of the water we use comes from Northern California via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

A plan called California WaterFix would improve our aging water system by building three new intakes in the Northern Delta and two tunnels to convey water to the start California Aqueduct in the southern Delta. A companion plan, California EcoRestore, would make important investments to improve the Delta's ecosystem. Why do we need these plans? Here are five reasons.

#1 - The Big One

Scientists say that earthquakes and rising sea levels could cause these levees to fail, putting our fresh water supply at risk from saltwater contamination. The new tunnel pipelines would more safely transport supplies to the 25 million people, farms, businesses that depend on this water.

#2 – Groundwater

Groundwater is Southern California's single largest local water source, but groundwater managers actually depend primarily on imported supplies from Northern California to help replenish those basins.

#3 Big Storms

A modernized system could reliably capture enough water to refill reservoirs after big storms because it would have multiple locations in the Delta to divert supplies, providing flexibility and reducing conflicts with migrating fish species such as salmon.

#4 Drought

Nearly all of the water that is stored in Southern California for drought and emergency needs comes either from Northern California or the Colorado River. An improved statewide water system helps us better prepare for extended drought.

#5 The Highest Quality Equals More Local Supplies

Sierra snowmelt is pure enough to recycle again and again, promoting more recycling projects in the region's future. And this supply has been good enough for Metropolitan to enter into international water tasting competitions – and win.

Making these improvements would cost about \$15 billion, with the share for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California likely about 25 percent.

Yet consider the benefit of protecting water reliability from the state's single largest supply, the Sierra snowpack. This investment breaks down to less than a tenth of a penny per gallon of supply delivered, protecting the supply for decades to come.

California Water Fix is a science-driven upgrade to our aging water system. It will provide clean, reliable water to California businesses, farms and residents while protecting our environment.