July 29, 2014

BDCP Comments
Ryan Wulff, NMFS
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wulff,

On behalf of the City of San Marino, I am writing to express our support for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and specifically Alternative #4 as outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

Following the passage of California’s comprehensive water package in 2009, we have watched the BDCP process. We are encouraged by the release of the public draft of the plan and environmental documents. The outcome of this multi-year effort reflects collaboration of public water agencies, state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, business and agricultural stakeholders, local governments and the public.

The draft plan and accompanying environmental documents identify several options for addressing the current challenges with California’s water supply delivery system and the Delta ecosystem. We believe that Alternative #4, which provides for three new intakes on the Sacramento River in the northern Delta and a 9,000 cfs tunnel system to convey that water to the existing aqueduct system, coupled with a comprehensive habitat conservation plan for the Delta, is the best alternative to meet California’s co-equal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.

The construction of new water intakes and related conveyance is an essential element of the BDCP. The proposed twin tunnel system will protect public water supplies if a seismic event were to trigger a levee break and allow saltwater to intrude from San Francisco Bay. The new intakes in the northern Delta will reduce conflicts between water systems and migrating fish species such as salmon. Habitat improvements will provide native species with the healthy ecosystems they need to survive.

Southern California is rebuilding its aging infrastructure to ensure its water supplies are reliable. We need the same kind of investment in the State Water Project to safeguard our imported supplies. A project of such magnitude will require some difficult decisions and compromises between stakeholders. However, California cannot sit idly by and wait for disaster.

We support the BDCP, and specifically Alternative #4, as a workable draft proposal that can lead to a final successful plan of action because it offers the best solution to minimize seismic risk to our state’s water supply infrastructure while restoring the Delta’s ecosystem.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John T. Schaefer
City Manager

cc: Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Senator Carol Liu, Assemblyman Ed Chau