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December 1, 2020

Board of Directors  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 N. Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

*Directors:*  
Howard Hobbs  
President

John H. de Fremery  
Vice President

Kenneth L. Crockett  
Paul Seger  
Scott Pastor

**RE: December 8<sup>th</sup> Agenda Item 7-4 Funding Delta Conveyance Project**

*General Manager &  
Secretary:*  
Daniel Muelrath

Chairwomen Gray:

*General Counsel:*  
Jeffrey D. Polisner

Diablo Water District (DWD) is uniquely situated in the heart of one of the State's most important natural resources, the Delta. The current and future health of the Delta (wildlife, quality of drinking water, and recreation) is of the highest concern to DWD and our residents.

Based on current efforts of state and partner agencies, there is a disproportionate level of effort being put towards the Delta Conveyance Project's Planning and Pre-Construction costs, as opposed to water use efficiency implementation, which is putting the proverbial cart before the horse.

DWD **opposes** the Delta Conveyance Project.

The opposition is based on the project's potential to:

- Export volumes of water that exceed the health and human safety needs of the south of Delta population.
  - AB 685 (2012) and SB 200 (2019) refer to the right of every Californian to have access to safe drinking water.
  - Current and projected future Delta water transfers far exceed the drinking water demands for the south of Delta population.
  - Water districts in the water rich regions of the state, have been forced to reduce the water demands of our customers; therefore, the south of Delta population (living in water short regions) should be under even higher conservation standards.
    - What is the rationale for residents in southern California receiving a larger water budget than northern California residents?

- Current state regulations, including the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, reward poor plant selection in Southern California with additional water allowances due to the higher Evapotranspiration rates.
  - Why is water being transferred through the Delta for application to outdoor landscapes that are up to 475 miles away?
- Damage the ecosystem health of the Delta.
  - Delta smelt, salmonids and the salmon populations will be impacted first.
  - Increased salinity will be compounded when including climate change and sea level rise.
  - Conveyance tunnel may rupture during an earthquake causing catastrophic and irreversible damage to the Delta region.

DWD implores the Board of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to demonstrate and quantify:

1. Progress made towards “*Making Conservation A Way of Life.*”
2. The impacts of setting a fair and equal statewide indoor and outdoor water budget, (i.e. 50 gallons per capita per day for indoor water use and 15 gallons per square foot per year for landscape water use). This would force regionally appropriate landscape choices and also be equitable for both northern and southern California residents. Thereby supporting the Water Resilience Portfolio (Jan 2020 draft) Water Supply Diversification goals 2.1 and 2.2 (pg. 18).
3. A “no project” alternative that investigates the true water demands for south of Delta users for health and human safety water only, not including landscape and other discretionary uses.
4. How water transfers would be handled if/when declines to fish populations or other ecosystem health indicators decline.
5. The greenhouse gas (GHG) emission of the Delta Conveyance Project, which has a cumulative impact on the entire State Water Project (SWP). Demonstrate how the SWP is going to meet the state’s 80% GHG reduction target by 2050.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Muelrath (on behalf of Diablo Water District Board of Directors)  
General Manager