



November 25, 2020

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

On behalf of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, I write in support of Metropolitan Water District funding of the state's environmental review and planning process for the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project, Southern California's best source of reliable, high-quality and affordable water.

Metropolitan's tradition of stewardship starts with good planning. The recommended funding share ensures the environmental review process is advanced and necessary planning can proceed. Continued investment in the environmental review for an updated Delta conveyance system ensures this process, which is essential for future decision-making, quickly moves forward and avoids further costly delays for this critical project.

Nearly one-third of Southern California's water supply comes from the Sierra Nevada. This resource provides the primary water supply for 29 million people, millions of acres of farmland, and Southern California's \$1.6 trillion economy. Modernizing the aging system that delivers this water is vitally important. It will ensure we are better prepared for climate change, natural disasters, and improve the Delta waterways and its ecosystem.

Southern California is working diligently to increase its local water supply and conservation, thereby reducing its reliance on the Delta. The Delta conveyance project is one of many steps we must take to ensure the region's water resiliency. Southern California is doing its part – actively diversifying its portfolio by developing local projects and investing in water efficiency. Still, the success of these local projects, including recycling projects, depends on a reliable supply of the higher quality water from Northern California.

Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio prioritizes a one-tunnel Delta conveyance system as essential to ensuring reliable water for generations to come. We continue to support efforts that advance this project because Southern California depends on the reliability the proposed Delta project will provide. With our largest and most affordable supply at risk, Metropolitan needs to provide funding now, ensuring the project continues to move forward with needed environmental planning and permitting work so that an informed decision on the project itself can be made in the future.

We urge Metropolitan's Board of Directors to help fund the environmental review and planning process for the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willie R. Mai".

President & CEO