



September 10, 2021

Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor of the State of California
 State Capitol Building, First Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 626 (Dodd) – **REQUEST SIGNATURE**
 Department of Water Resources:
 Construction Manager/General Contractor Procurement Method

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the State Water Contractors (SWC) and 12 of its member agencies, we respectfully request that you sign SB 626 by Senator Bill Dodd into law.

The SWC is an organization representing 27 of the 29 public water entities that hold contracts with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water.¹ Collectively, the SWC members provide a portion of the water supply delivered to approximately 27 million Californians, roughly two-thirds of the state’s population, and to over 750,000 acres of irrigated agriculture. Water supply delivered to the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley,

¹ The SWC members are: Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Zone 7; Alameda County Water District; Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency; Central Coast Water Authority; City of Yuba City; Coachella Valley Water District; County of Kings; Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency; Desert Water Agency; Dudley Ridge Water District; Empire-West Side Irrigation District; Kern County Water Agency; Littlerock Creek Irrigation District; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Mojave Water Agency; Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; Oak Flat Water District; Palmdale Water District; San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency; San Luis Obispo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; Santa Clara Valley Water District; Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency; Solano County Water Agency; Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District; and, Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

Central Coast and Southern California from the SWP is diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

SB 626 would give DWR the ability to use Design Build and Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) procurement processes for construction contracts. This authority would accelerate project delivery and allow DWR to advance critical public safety, infrastructure and habitat restoration projects in a more expeditious and efficient manner.

The SWP is a collection of 700 miles of canals, pipelines, reservoirs and hydroelectric power facilities that deliver water to its customers. This complex water grid is the largest state-owned and operated water delivery system in the world and drives California's quality of life and economic vitality. Adapting and updating this 60-year old system is essential to building a more resilient water supply for the future, one that can withstand the long-lasting impacts of climate change while delivering the public benefit of clean, reliable and affordable water.

Through charges for participation in the SWP, SWC members have funded and continue to fund **all** capital projects, operations and maintenance of the SWP, and extensive ecosystem restoration projects required as mitigation in SWP permits. The efficient and timely delivery of projects and improvements to existing facilities is of critical importance to the SWC and all of the ratepayers it represents. Projects using Design Build or the CM/GC procurement method can begin earlier and take less time because of overlapping design and construction phases, will help reduce overall costs to water ratepayers and project risks and will support DWR in expediting critical water infrastructure improvements that will improve California's water supply climate resiliency.

The new project delivery methods proposed in SB 626 will improve DWR's existing design-bid-build method and can help mitigate the effects of aging infrastructure and complex projects associated with climate change and habitat restoration. For all of the above reasons, we ask that you give SB 626 your favorable consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Pierre at (916) 447-7357 or by email at jpierre@swc.org.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Pierre, General Manager
State Water Contractors



Dwayne Chisam, General Manager
Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency

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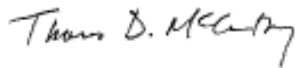
Jennifer Spindler, General Manager
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency



Jim Barrett, General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District



Mark S. Krause, General Manager
Desert Water Agency



Thomas D. McCarthy, General Manager
Kern County Water Agency



Kathy Cortner, General Manager
Mojave Water Agency



Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of
Southern California



Heather Dyer, General Manager
San Bernardino Valley MWD



Lance Eckhart, General Manager
San Geronio Pass Water Agency



Matthew Stone, General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency



Darin Kasamoto, General Manager
San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District



Bart Broome, Assistant Officer for
State Government Relations
Santa Clara Valley Water District

cc: Senator Bill Dodd
Marisol Prieto-Valle, Office of Senator Bill Dodd