

# News Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Foothill Supports Governor Newsom's Proposal to Streamline Delta Conveyance Project Approvals**

Foothill Municipal Water District (Foothill) supports Governor Gavin Newsom's recent proposal to expedite the approval process for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). The DCP is a critical infrastructure project that aims to modernize the State Water Project's (SWP) delivery system by constructing a new, single-tunnel conveyance pipeline through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The SWP provides clean water to 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland.

On May 14, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed a budget revision streamlining the actions to reduce administrative delays for the DCP. The budget trailer bill is not about circumventing public engagement and review – this budget trailer bill is all about breaking through redundant, archaic processes that result in endless delays, duplicative reviews, and millions upon millions of dollars of additive costs, while impeding the State's ability to complete critical, needed infrastructure projects. Governor Newsom's proposal includes measures to simplify permitting processes, confirm funding authorities, and streamline judicial reviews. These reforms are expected to facilitate timely progress on the DCP while maintaining environmental protections and saving more than \$365 million for every year of avoided delay.

On May 28, 2025, Foothill's Board unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the DCP, underscoring the District's commitment to ensuring sustainable and reliable water supply for our service area," stated Richard Atwater, Foothill Board President. President Atwater was on the Delta Conveyance Authority Board and was President of the DCA Board from 2021 to 2023 when the design and permitting of the tunnel project began.

The Foothill service area receives about 60% imported water coming from both the State Water Project and Colorado River. The remaining amount is from local groundwater and

surface water. All sources of water have been negatively impacted by drought and climate change resulting in water shortages becoming more commonplace than they were 30 years ago. Climate models predict “weather whiplash” with more extreme drought and flood cycles.

“It is imperative that we capture the heavier precipitation in wet years due to climate change so that it can be used for the drought years which are becoming more intense. The Delta Conveyance Project is one of the key infrastructure pieces needed to protect consumers and businesses from climate change,” stated General Manager Nina Jazmadarian. The DCP will help with other challenges including risk of water delivery disruption due to a seismic event and sea level rise.

A 2024 Benefit/Cost Analysis of the Delta Conveyance Project found that water conveyed through the SWP is the most affordable source of water compared to alternatives like desalination or recycling. These alternative sources are necessary, but the volume of water delivered by the SWP cannot be replaced. If the DCP was operational October 1, 2024 through May 15, 2025, the State could have moved about 952,000 acre-feet of water – enough for nearly 10 million people or 3.3 million households. A new economic analysis by the University of California, Davis shows that less water supplies could result in Statewide economic losses of between \$3.4 and \$14.5 billion per year.

Foothill applauds the Governor’s proposal to protect the State’s most critical water supply and urges the Legislature to enact these provisions. Foothill is dedicated to supporting the advancement of the DCP as well as local supply projects including conservation that will protect the health and well-being of our communities.

*Foothill Municipal Water District provides imported water to Crescenta Valley Water District, La Cañada Irrigation District, Liberty Utilities, Valley Water Company, Lincoln Avenue Water Company, Las Flores Water Company and Rubio Cañon Land & Water Association. Kinneloa Irrigation District, another retail agency, takes no water from Foothill.*

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