



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

October 11, 2017

Members of the Board
Kern County Water Agency
P.O. Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

RE: Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) Urges You to Vote "No" on October 12th to Finance the California WaterFix Project

Dear Members of the Board:

The Delta Counties Coalition urges you to vote "no" on the California WaterFix project on October 12, 2017, because the project is not financially viable or sustainable.

On September 9, 2017, Westlands' Board of Directors, on a 7-1 vote, discontinued further financial support of the WaterFix project citing uncertainty in the water supply deliveries and cost estimates provided by the Governor's Administration. While the Metropolitan Water District voted yesterday to invest \$4.3B, the same uncertainties of water supply deliveries, total project cost, and who will pay for the larger portion of the project remain. Let us also not forget that Westlands' vote against WaterFix means that other water agency ratepayers or taxpayers must shoulder a greater share of the cost.

If Kern County Water Agency chooses to finance the project, the district and ultimately its ratepayers will be on the hook for an unknown sum because it is uncertain which water districts will participate in financing the project and project costs are likely to balloon well over \$17 billion. Research shows that 9 out of 10 megaprojects grossly exceed their initial cost estimates.

The California WaterFix is not a viable option to improve the state's water infrastructure. While we understand the need to move water in the state's highly engineered water system, exports from the Delta are not a solution to the state's water supply shortage, as Delta supplies are limited.

A better alternative to the tunnels would be to increase water storage throughout California, which will provide more water and can be done at a significantly lower cost to consumers. Additional water conservation, reuse, recycling, desalination and investments in Delta levees could also be built statewide for roughly the same cost to build the tunnels, while producing billions of gallons of new water. Investments in any of these options would increase water supplies for jurisdictions throughout the state, farms, and the environment while protecting water quality in the Delta.

We recognize that your water agency's support is critical to the financial feasibility of the WaterFix project and hope that the weight of this factor does not influence your ability to think about other more financially feasible options—ones that do not pit Southern California against Northern California. For these reasons, the DCC urges you to vote no on October 12.

Sincerely,



Don Nottoli
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Skip Thomson
Supervisor, Solano County



Karen Mitchoff
Supervisor, Contra Costa
County



Oscar Villegas
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

cc: Curtis Creel, General Manager, Kern County Water Agency