



### **Delta Counties Coalition**

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

*"Working together on water and Delta issues"*

October 16, 2017

Members of the Board  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

### **RE: Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) Urges You to Vote "No" on October 17th to Finance the California WaterFix (WaterFix) Project**

Dear Members of the Board:

The Delta Counties Coalition urges you to vote "no" on the California WaterFix project on October 17, 2017, because the project is not financially viable or sustainable.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is already on the right track and we commend you for your actions to devote \$100 million to fund sustainable water projects like stormwater capture, leak repair, and greywater reuse. Not only is the district spending ratepayer dollars wisely, it is also investing in local communities creating local jobs and increasing economic development. More importantly, the district will complete these projects faster for the benefit of your constituents all while maintaining local control.

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 and Kern County Water Agency recently voted to approve financial support for the project, 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.

A vote to finance the WaterFix project means that SCVWD and ultimately its ratepayers will be on the hook for an unknown sum because it is uncertain which other 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.

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 district'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. For these reasons, the DCC urges you to vote no on October 17.

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: Norma Camacho, Chief Executive Officer