September 30, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT — Bay Delta Conservation Plan Process

Dear Governor Brown:

I’m writing on behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) and our 1,600 member organizations to reiterate our support for the environmental review process currently underway for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (“BDCP”).

The outcome of the BDCP will have particularly significant implications for Southern California businesses. Our $1 trillion regional economy currently depends on imported water for more than 50% of its supply. Southern California businesses are concerned that a substantial portion of their water supply is in currently jeopardy due to environmental degradation and increased seismic risk in the Sacramento—San Joaquin Delta (“Delta”).

Critical to maintaining a healthy regional economy in Southern California is securing a long-term, reliable baseline of imported water from the Delta. We believe habitat restoration and upgrading our water infrastructure is vital to securing our region’s long-term economic health.

We applaud you for taking the necessary steps to address California’s aging water infrastructure concerns. We acknowledge that a project of such magnitude will require some difficult decisions and compromises between stakeholders with varying priorities. However, Southern California’s economy cannot sit idly by and wait for a disaster to occur.

On behalf of the Chamber, we appreciate you taking the necessary steps to move the BDCP process forward. We thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue and remain ready to assist you in educating our members on this critically important issue for our region.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO

CC: Secretary Sally Jewell, United States Department of the Interior
    The Hon. Xavier Becerra, United States Congress
    The Hon. John Perez, California State Assembly