



2001 Gateway, Suite 101E
San Jose, CA 95110
PH | 408.501.7864
FAX | 408.501.7861
www.realcoalition.org

LUCY DUNN
Co-Chair
Orange County Business Council

CARL GUARDINO
Co-Chair
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

RON ADDINGTON
Business Council of San Joaquin County

BILL ALLEN
Los Angeles County Economic
Development Corporation

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San Diego Chamber of Commerce

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San Diego Regional Economic
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Southern California Leadership
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Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of
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San Gabriel Valley
Economic Partnership

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San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of
Commerce

CYNTHIA MURRAY
North Bay Leadership Council

ROGER NIELLO
Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce

AL SMITH
Greater Fresno Area Chamber
of Commerce

GARY TOEBBEN
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

JIM WUNDERMAN
Bay Area Council

July 3, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary, Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable John Laird
Secretary, Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Salazar and Secretary Laird,

Now is the time to move the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) forward. The BDCP provides an opportunity to achieve the co-equal goals established by the Legislature of water supply reliability and Delta restoration. The wide array of civic and business organizations across the state that are represented by this letter are in support of action to achieve a comprehensive water solution for California – one that will help us address the long term needs of our residents, strengthen our economic future, and protect our state from catastrophe..

The risk of inaction is unacceptable. An earthquake could cut off a key water supply to 25 million people in the state and more than 3 million acres of prime farmland, hurting families, businesses, communities and our economy. An updated Delta conveyance system is the only way to avoid this threat of severe shortages for communities that would have a devastating impact on California's economy.

Restoring a reliable water supply is key to the long-term economic stability of Silicon Valley, the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. Four of the nation's top five agricultural production counties are reliant on water conveyed from Northern California storage facilities. The public water agencies that serve these communities and economies are ready to make the conveyance investments necessary to restore a reliable water system.

Additionally, moving forward with construction on water conveyance infrastructure will create more than 129,000 jobs in areas that have been hit hardest by the great recession, including Sacramento, Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan represents the most comprehensive effort in California's history to address the long-standing water system/ecosystem crisis in the Delta. A quarter billion dollars in water ratepayer funds will be expended in order to advance the planning process to the action stage. We recognize that any comprehensive effort cannot fully satisfy all the disparate stakeholder groups. But

the inability to make the decisions necessary to take historic action in the Delta is in no region's long-term interest. We urge you to continue to work collaboratively to promptly propose a set of Delta actions, complete the environmental review process and make final actions next year. This is the time to act.

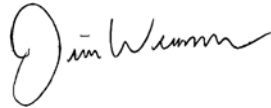
Sincerely,



Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce



Carl Guardino
President and CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group



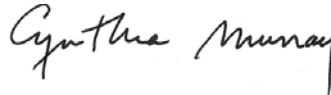
Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



Bill Allen
President & CEO
Los Angeles County Economic
Development Corporation



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President & CEO
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President & CEO
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President & CEO
Orange County Business Council



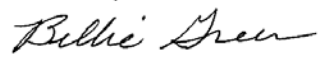
Mark Cafferty
President & CEO
San Diego Regional Economic
Development Corporation



Cynthia Kurtz
President & CEO
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership



Matthew Mahood
President & CEO
San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of
Commerce



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