



September 24, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 16701
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: The Bay-Delta Conservation Plan

Dear Governor Brown,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) strongly supports your efforts to identify a solution to California's water challenges and move forward with the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

California's water system—including the largest estuary on the West Coast, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta—is highly vulnerable. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there is a 63 percent probability that a 6.7 magnitude or larger earthquake will hit the Bay Area in the next 30 years. Such an earthquake would likely trigger levee breaks throughout the Delta, releasing saltwater from the San Francisco Bay into the Delta. This contamination would mean the closure of one of the state's primary water supplies for up to a year and a half, depriving 25 million people, businesses and farms of their primary water supply.

It is time for California to abandon the status quo and advance the BDCP. The plan will restore and protect the Delta environment, while ensuring that California has a reliable water supply for years to come. The financial future of all Californians relies on the preservation and proper management of the Bay-Delta.

The construction of a new water conveyance facility - specifically the twin tunnel system - is an essential element of the BDCP. Until a reliable conveyance system is built to separate a portion of water from the fragile Delta levees, the California business community is at risk of losing a key source of water.

Southern California is rebuilding its aging infrastructure to ensure its water supplies are reliable. We need the same kind of investment in the State Water Project to safeguard our imported supplies.

We recognize that a project of such critical importance will require difficult decisions and compromise between stakeholders with differing priorities. However, our elected officials cannot sit idly by and wait for disaster.

We appreciate your leadership on the BDCP, and look forward to construction of the conveyance system.

Sincerely,

David Adelman
Chair

Stuart Waldman
President