



## Western Riverside Council of Governments

County of Riverside • City of Banning • City of Calimesa • City of Canyon Lake • City of Corona • City of Eastvale • City of Hemet • City of Jurupa Valley  
City of Lake Elsinore • City of Menifee • City of Moreno Valley • City of Murrieta • City of Norco • City of Perris • City of Riverside • City of San Jacinto  
City of Temecula • City of Wildomar • Eastern Municipal Water District • Western Municipal Water District

November 13, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
California Governor  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Secretary Sally Jewell  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Subject: WRCOG Support for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan**

Dear Governor Brown and Secretary Jewell:

On behalf of the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), I would like to express my support for your efforts to identify a solution to California's water challenges.

Southern California relies on imported water for more than 50% of its supply. Some communities in Southern California are nearly 100% dependent on the State Water Project for their water; and, while the region continues to develop new local supplies and invest in conservation, imported water remains an essential resource.

The Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta region, through which Southern California and Western Riverside County draws State Water Project supplies, is increasingly vulnerable. Environmental concerns are mounting and water supplies for 25 million people, businesses and farms throughout the state are in jeopardy.

We applaud you for recognizing that it is time for California to abandon the status quo and advance a new plan -- the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) -- which will restore and protect the Delta environment and ensure that California has a reliable water supply for years to come.

The construction of a new water conveyance is an essential element of the BDCP. The proposed twin tunnel system will protect public water supplies if a seismic event -- which the U.S. Geological Survey predicts in the coming years -- were to trigger levee breaks and cause saltwater to intrude from San Francisco Bay. New intakes in the northern Delta will reduce conflicts with migrating fish species such as salmon. And 50 years of regulatory stability will protect an estimated 1.1 million jobs throughout the state and create more than 177,000 jobs from construction projects and operations, according to a noted University of California, Berkeley professor.

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. A project of such magnitude will require some difficult decisions and compromise between stakeholders with varying priorities. However, California cannot sit idly by and wait for disaster.

On November 4, 2013, WRCOG joined many other local jurisdictions and water agencies behind these important issues, and WRCOG's Executive Committee adopted a Resolution in Support of the

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Bay Delta Conservation Plan, Reliable Water Supplies, and Environmental Restoration. This Resolution is enclosed for your reference.

On behalf of WRCOG, we appreciate you taking the necessary steps to move the BDCP process forward. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support or the enclosed Resolution, please do not hesitate to contact Rick Bishop, WRCOG Executive Director, at (951) 955-8303, or by email at [bishop@wrcog.cog.ca.us](mailto:bishop@wrcog.cog.ca.us). Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Stone  
Chair, WRCOG Executive Committee

Enclosure



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### RESOLUTION NUMBER 21-13

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN, RELIABLE WATER SUPPLIES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is a 550,000-acre estuary where the rivers of the Sierra Nevada merge before heading west to the San Francisco Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, water supplies from Northern California that traverse across the Delta are vital to California, providing water for 25 million people from the Bay Area to the Mexican border; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delta is in a state of environmental decline due to the loss of wetlands habitat, invasive species, pesticide runoff, pumping operations and other stressors; and

**WHEREAS**, the decline in the Delta's health threatens this unique environment and water supplies that are key to California's farming communities and the state's overall \$1.7 trillion economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delta's levees are not engineered to protect the state's water supply distribution system from a major earthquake, and multiple levee failures could disrupt water deliveries and the state's economy for up to three years; and

**WHEREAS**, experts predict that there is a 66 percent probability of a 6.5 or greater magnitude earthquake within the Delta by 2032; and

**WHEREAS**, state and federal agencies, via the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process, have worked for seven years towards developing a comprehensive package of ecosystem and water system improvements to address both current conflicts in the Delta and long-term threats to the state's water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, BDCP represents an effort to comply with state and federal environmental laws for fifty years through a cooperative effort to reverse the Delta's decline; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost-benefit analysis identifies the 9,000 cubic feet per second, twin tunnel option as superior, with a net economic benefit of \$4.5 to \$5.5 billion, offering the best value that also effectively accomplishes key environmental objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, the smaller facility ('portfolio-based alternative') is inferior in several ways, including its net economic benefit of negative \$1.1 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to take decisive action represents an unacceptable risk to the Delta, environment, economy and lives of 25 million Californians; and

**WHEREAS**, the State and Federal Administrations have agreed to a comprehensive set of actions outlined in the Administrative Draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan that includes Delta water conveyance improvements to protect public water supplies, habitat restoration and enhanced conservation efforts.

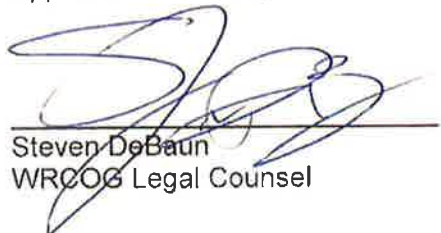
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments supports the current Bay Delta Conservation Plan process, the 9,000 cubic feet per second twin tunnel option and the concepts in the plan advanced by the State and Federal Administrations. WRCOG urges the state and federal agencies to continue progress on releasing a public draft of the plan for review and comment by October 1, 2013, to ensure that the final BDCP plan meets the co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration for the Delta and reliable water supplies for California.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments held this 4th day of November, 2013.

  
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Jeff Stone, Chair  
WRCOG Executive Committee

  
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Rick Bishop, Secretary  
WRCOG Executive Committee

Approved as to form:

  
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Steven DeBatin  
WRCOG Legal Counsel

AYES: 19      NOES: 0      ABSENT: 3      ABSTAIN: 1