

# Comment Letter SLDMWA

02-07-2006 05:13PM FROM-SLDMWA	+2098278040	T-897 P.002	F-303
--------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------



**SLDMWA**

February 7, 2006 FEB 07 2006 0049

Mr. Lester Snow Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001	Mr. Kirk Rogers Regional Director U.S. Bureau of Reclamation 2800 Cottage Way, MP-100 Sacramento, CA 95825-1898
--	---

RE: South Delta Improvements Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Dear Director Snow and Regional Director Rogers:

On behalf of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's member agencies, I write to express our organization's support for the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality, and environmental project designed to improve California's ability to meet its diverse water needs. In October, DWR and USBR released a draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/R) for the SDIP, continuing an important public process. This letter is our response to the call for comments regarding the draft environmental documentation.

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority consists of 32 water agencies<sup>1</sup> providing service for agricultural, urban, and wildlife management purposes in the western San Joaquin Valley, San Benito and Santa Clara counties. The Authority's members deliver water to more than 1.3 million acres of the nation's most productive farm lands, 1.7 million California residents, and over 150,000 acres of some of the State's most important wildlife refuges in the Pacific Flyway.

As stewards of this essential resource, our members are well aware of the mounting water supply challenges California is facing. We need an increasingly safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep pace with our rapidly rising population and expanding trillion-dollar economy, while preserving our deeply valued agricultural and ecological

---

<sup>1</sup>Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Broadview Water District, Byron Bethany Irrigation District (CVP), Central California Irrigation District, Centinella Water District, City of Tracy, Columbia Canal Company, Del Puerto Water District, Eagle Field Water District, Firebaugh Canal Water District, Fresno Slough Water District, Grasslands Water District, James Irrigation District, Laguna Water District, Mercy Springs Water District, Oro Loma Water District, Pacheco Water District, Pajero Valley Water Management Agency, Panoche Irrigation District, Patterson Irrigation District, Pleasant Valley Water District, Reclamation District 1606, San Benito County Water District, San Luis Canal Company, San Luis Water District, Santa Clara County Water District, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Turner Island Water District, West Side Irrigation District, West Stanislaus Irrigation District, Westlands Water District, Widren Water District.

842 SIXTH STREET  
SLDMWA-1  
SUITE 7  
  
P.O. BOX 2157  
  
LOS BANOS  
  
CALIFORNIA  
  
93635  
  
(209) 826-9696  
OFFICE  
  
(209) 826-9698  
FAX

05:13PM FROM-SLDMA

FEB 07 2006

00149

eritage. This need is complicated by the geographic location of the limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must best utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment, and businesses at undue risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need to implement improvements to the Bay-Delta's water delivery system to maximize the benefit of the water for human and environmental uses. In short, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) to address the Bay-Delta's water resources and ecosystem management in a comprehensive, collaborative, and balanced manner. A unique association of interests supported the Program including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. To date, the Program has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in environmental efforts to enhance the Bay-Delta and SDIP is but the next step forward in this long-term effort. Furthermore, given its position within the Program, the full implementation of SDIP will assist in maintaining the Program's overall balance and help ensure future funding commitments from federal, state, and local interests alike.

In isolation, the SDIP through implementation of Stage 1 provides increased water supply reliability to local interests, enhances water quality in the South Delta region, and improves the safety of migration for many anadromous fish species of concern on the San Joaquin River. The Stage 2 facet not only provides opportunity to enhance the water supply and water supply reliability for human needs but also for environmental purposes, including South-of-Delta refuges deeply reliant upon water exported from the Bay-Delta to support essential areas of the Pacific Flyway. Aside from these direct benefits, the increased operational capacity promised by SDIP provides indirect benefit to other Bay-Delta management efforts, including the pelagic species, by allowing the project and management agencies greater operational flexibility. In and of itself, SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Bay-Delta. Collectively, it will improve our State's water supply and reliability, water quality, and the overall health of the Bay-Delta and San Joaquin River ecosystems.

SLDMWA-1 cont'd

The draft EIS/R is a comprehensive and complex document. In its attempt to explain the myriad of operational alternatives and affecting circumstances we occasionally find areas that could benefit from greater clarity and commitment. This is particularly true with respect to the relationship between the Environmental Water Account (EWA) and SDIP, and the Stage 2 decision.

The EWA was established to provide the fish agencies another tool to supply an additional level of protection for at-risk native fish species beyond the significant resources previously dedicated for this purpose by the CVP and SWP. The initial program had an anticipated duration of four years. A determination of a future EWA, if any, would then be informed by a comprehensive scientific review of the four year experiment. In 2004, the EWA was extended through 2007 to coincide with the end of the CALFED Stage 1 and with it the commitment to undertake a comprehensive scientific review of the program's efficacy was delayed.

SLDMWA-2

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Comments on the South Delta Improvements Program  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Page 2 of

05:14PM FROM-SLDMWA

FEB 07 2006 00149

The importance of the EWA comprehensive scientific review to guide the program's future scale and scope cannot be understated and yet the draft EIS/R touches this point only lightly. In fact, Section 6.1 states, "SDIP alternatives may allow increased pumping during periods when EWA actions to reduce entrainment would be taken under the baseline. Additional EWA assets, therefore, would be required to provide the same level of fish protection and water deliveries." What level of fish protection has actually been identified? How many fish have been saved? What kinds of fish? The answers to these questions remains elusive and the growing doubt regarding the efficacy of the EWA to protect fish, particularly pelagic species, is in sharp contrast to the stated assumption that the EWA must grow in simple concurrence with expanded diversion potential. The draft EIS/R would be better served by acknowledging that the overall benefit of the EWA, or some equivalent, remains in question and that the future size and purpose of the EWA will be dependent upon the findings of the long anticipated comprehensive scientific review.

SLDMWA-2 cont'd

The EWA treatment is also murky with respect to its relationship to the Stage 2 decision. The EWA program is not mitigation for the increased operational capacity that may be realized under Stage 2 and the Draft EIS/R aptly states that appropriate mitigation measures will be developed along with a Stage 2 preferred alternative. Yet, the draft also assumes that a larger EWA will be employed irrespective of any findings through the comprehensive scientific review process that may be contrary to such an action and in fact the draft goes so far as to state, "These mitigation measures [export curtailments, asset crediting] are designed to provide the identical level of EWA protections with the increased SWP Banks pumping (i.e., CCF diversion) limit. All of these SDIP mitigation measures would be incorporated into the expanded long-term EWA program, once it is adopted. [emphasis added]. The concern with this statement, and other similar inferences, is that it suggests the EWA, or some increment, mitigates for an expanded diversion potential and pre-supposes conclusions from both the comprehensive scientific review and supplemental environmental analyses that will occur prior to the determination of a Stage 2 preferred alternative. The draft EIS/R would be better served by simply stating that the mitigation of Stage 2 will be developed along with a Stage 2 preferred alternative and that such measures will be informed and fully representative of the scientific research examining the Bay-Delta's health and the effect of project operations.

Regarding the Stage 2 decision, the lack of a firm temporal decision point is disquieting. While we accept the decision to bifurcate the SDIP's decision process into two stages, and acknowledge that the draft EIS/R contemplates in sweeping generalities a Stage 2 decision timeline, we believe the lack of commitment to firm decision points is unnecessary and counterproductive. The benefit in dividing the SDIP decision process into two components is premised upon three assumptions: 1) that project operations have a significant affect on the status of pelagic species, 2) that further intense study will provide timely insight on the factors affecting the Bay-Delta's health, and 3) that increasing permitted diversion capacity would result in greater harm to the Bay-Delta. In our view, these assumptions lack merit.

Data pertaining to the Bay-Delta and project operations has been collected for decades and no firm correlation between project operations and the status of the pelagic species has ever been

SLDMWA-3

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Comments on the South Delta Improvements Program  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Page 3 of 5

02-07-2006 05:14PM FROM-SLDWMA

+2098278040

T-897 P.005

F-303

FEB 07 2006

identified. In fact recently, some study on the subject has shown no statistically significant correlation between salvage and subsequent delta smelt abundance indices<sup>2</sup>. While a more comprehensive analysis of export effects on subsequent delta smelt abundance conducted by Dr. Bryan Manly for the Pelagic Organism Decline program concludes that such effects exist, and can produce both positive and negative effects, these influences are not important relative to changes in delta smelt abundance.<sup>3</sup> Anecdotal "evidence" abounds; however, in order to find a durable solution to the Bay-Delta health question we must be willing to follow the science, even at the risk of offending the conventional wisdom.

SLDWMA-3 cont'd

We strongly support the investment into understanding the cause(s) of this most recent decline in the health of the Bay-Delta, as exemplified by the diminishing population indices of the reliant pelagic species. However, our enthusiasm for the investment is tempered by our cautious optimism regarding its scope. For decades now, the thrust of effort to improve the Bay-Delta's condition has been unproductively narrow, if not outright distracting, and so we remain concerned that the emphasis of many will be to do more of the failed same, focus solely on project operations. Modern data strongly points to a limited effect, if any, from exports and far more convincingly suggest the true culprits to be invasive species and/or toxics from regional urban and agricultural discharges. Our optimism in the research effort is buoyed by those few willing to apply new thinking against the old paradigm in order to understand the cause of this most recent, if not cyclical, occurrence. We are, however, doubtful of a solution being presented in the timeframe generally suggested by the draft EIS/R and therefore remain concerned as to the unstated "next step" if such an understanding is not present at the completion of the Stage 1 decision process. For these reasons, and as a matter of accountability to SDIP proponents, the California electorate who chose to support funding for this project through the passage of Proposition 13 nearly six years ago, and other interested parties, we believe that firm decision points and contingency actions should be articulated in the draft EIS/R.

Lastly, and to the third bifurcation assumption, increasing the permitted diversion capacity at Clifton Court Forebay in and of itself will play no role in degrading or improving the Bay-Delta health. There are and will remain a plethora of overriding conditions that govern operations in a manner intended to produce the most beneficial outcome, primarily for the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Standards such as the export/inflow ratio and X2, and biologically based operational decisions such as storage releases or focused export curtailments, are in place whether the permitted diversion rate is 1 or 10,000 cubic-feet per second. It is incumbent upon us to operate responsibly and full implementation of SDIP will only enhance our potential to fulfill this obligation.

In conclusion, the state is currently constrained in its ability to utilize surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers

SLDMWA-1 cont'd

<sup>2</sup> Attachment 1: The State of the Delta; What is Killing the Delta Smelt? Dr. BJ Miller, January 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Bryan Manly, personal communication to Dr. BJ Miller, January 25, 2006. "... although there are significant effects of hydrological and export variables on delta smelt, these seem non-linear [positive and negative], and do not seem to be able to explain the main long-term trends in delta smelt numbers. By that I mean that the hydrology and export effects seem to produce small wiggles on the trend lines. This is not saying that the effects are not statistically significant. It is saying that the effects don't seem to be important compared to other things going on."

02-07-2006 05:14PM FROM-SLDMWA

+2098278040

T-897 P.006/016 F-383

FEB 07 2006

cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP predicts only a nominal 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the agencies precious flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries to periods of less environmental sensitivity when necessary. SDIP is a good project for California – it does not require building major new infrastructure, it maximizes the value of under utilized assets, and provides a multitude of important environmental benefits, all with funding already secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

SLDMWA-1 cont'd

Given all these points it is no wonder why SDIP is also supported by a broad, statewide coalition of water, agricultural, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association, and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, communities, and quality of life. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage to ensure California's future. To successfully do so, it is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system to maximize the benefit of existing though limited water supplies.

Again, we strongly support the SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



Daniel G. Nelson  
Executive Director

CC:

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Member Agencies  
Terry Erlewine, General Manager, State Water Contractors  
Steve Hall, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agencies

## Responses to Comments

### SLDMWA-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

### SLDMWA-2

Please see Master Response E, *Reliance on Expanded Environmental Water Account Actions for Fish Entrainment Reduction*, for mitigation of entrainment under Stage 2.

### SLDMWA-3

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

## Comment Letter SCVWD

	<p><i>L. SNOW</i> <i>H. Johnson</i> <i>3 Marshall</i></p> <p><b>SCVWD</b></p> <p>3755 ALMADEN EXPWY SAN JOSE, CA 95118-3686 TELEPHONE (408) 265-2600 FACIMILE (408) 266-0271 www.valleywater.org AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER</p>
<p>February 7, 2006</p>	
<p>FEB 27 2006 000220</p>	
<p>Mr. Lester Snow Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001</p>	
<p>RE: South Delta Improvements Program</p>	
<p>Dear Mr. Snow:</p>	
<p>The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) has reviewed the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP) Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) and has the following comments, in addition to those provided through the State Water Contractors which are hereby incorporated.</p>	
<p>The District provides wholesale water supply and watershed management to 1.7 million residents of Santa Clara County and to the vital high-tech economy known as "Silicon Valley." On average, half of the County's water supply must be imported from the Bay-Delta watershed through the State Water Project and Central Valley Project. The District's Integrated Water Management Plan includes substantial local investments in water use efficiency, recycled water, and groundwater management. However, ensuring the reliability of the county's water supply also depends on protecting and restoring the reliability of water imported from the Bay-Delta watershed.</p>	<p>SCVWD-1</p>
<p>The SDIP is a key component of broader State and federal actions described in the CALFED Record of Decision to improve the Bay-Delta ecosystem, water quality and water supply. Analyses in the Draft EIR/EIS indicate that SDIP will protect migrating salmon, maintain water levels for South Delta agricultural water users, and improve water circulation and quality in the South Delta through the installation of permanent operable tidal gates in Stage 1.</p>	
<p>One area that District staff has reviewed in particular is the modeling of potential water quality impacts in Clifton Court Forebay, since South Bay Aqueduct deliveries are directly affected by water quality in this area. Based on monthly averaged data the Draft EIR/EIS shows a slight degradation in salinity, more related to Stage 2 than Stage 1. We appreciate the two-stage decision-making process presented in the Draft EIR/EIS, and the commitment to additional environmental review prior to Stage 2, so that modeling tools and studies can be refined to better understand any potential water quality impacts.</p>	
<p>Overall, we believe that the SDIP will provide important operational flexibility for both the Delta environment and water users, and support continued progress in coordination with a long-term vision for a sustainable Delta.</p>	
<p>The mission of the Santa Clara Valley Water District is a healthy, safe and enhanced quality of living in Santa Clara County through watershed stewardship and comprehensive management of water resources in a practical, cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner.</p>	

Mr. Lester Snow  
Page Two  
February 7, 2006

FEB 27 2006 000220

We appreciate the helpfulness of Department of Water Resources staff in our review of the Draft EIR/EIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at 408 265 2600, extension 2073.

Sincerely,



Joan Maher  
Imported Water Unit Manager

## Responses to Comments

### SCVWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter TCWD

	<b>TEJON-CASTAC WATER DISTRICT</b> 4436 Lebec Road Lebec, CA 93243	<b>TCWD</b> DEC 22 2005 <i>L. Snow</i> <i>A. Johnson</i> <i>K. Kelly</i>
Mailing Address P.O. Box 1000 Lebec, CA 93243		Telephone: (661) 248-3000 Facsimile: (661) 248-3100
December 9, 2005		
Mr. Lester Snow, Director California Department of Water Resources 1416 9 <sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5515		
<b>RE: Support for South Delta Improvements Program</b>		
Dear Director Snow,		
The Tejon-Castac Water District supports the Department of Water Resources' South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), because it is a responsible and balanced plan that will allow California to better utilize and integrate its existing water management infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, while also protecting the environment. We urge you and key stakeholders to advance this critically needed program in a timely fashion, to enhance the state's water future.		
As a local water district in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Tejon-Castac is concerned about the long-term viability of the Delta ecosystem and its ability to deliver water to Central Valley and Southern California users. We believe the state must continue to pursue the projects and programs outlined in the CalFed Bay-Delta Program if it is to succeed in protecting and enhancing the Delta while ensuring a reliable long-term water supply. The SDIP is a critical component of the CalFed process that must be implemented.		
The SDIP will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta. It will dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and it will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of State Water Project deliveries when surplus water is available and when it is environmentally safe to do so.		
Again, we support the SDIP and encourage your department and all other stakeholders to advance and implement it as soon as possible.		
Sincerely,		
		
DENNIS MULLINS President		
cc: The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority Mr. Ryan Broddrick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game		

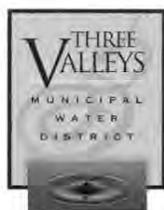
TCWD-1

# Responses to Comments

## TCWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter TVMWD



TVMWD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Bowcock  
David D. De Jesus  
Dan Horan  
Luis M. Juarez  
Bob Kuhn  
Fred Lantz  
Joseph T. Ruzicka

*2 H. Keller  
Marshall*

GENERAL MANAGER/CHIEF ENGINEER  
Richard W. Hansen, P.E.

January 19, 2006

FEB 27 2006 000221

Mr. Lester Snow, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
South Delta Improvements Program  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE: Support of the South Delta Improvements Program**

Dear Director Snow:

On behalf of Three Valleys Municipal Water District, I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). We do believe that this is a critical project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, starting an important public review and comment process.

Three Valleys Municipal Water District strongly supports projects that improve water reliability, long-term planning and natural resource protection. As a water supplier for approximately 600,000 people in the eastern Los Angeles County, we fully understand the need for projects such as these that will help meet the state's ever-growing demand for this limited resource.

California faces a critical challenge – we need safe, reliable and high quality water to keep up with the rapidly rising population and fast-growing economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance to the state, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count, not just for now but for the future as well.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water

TVMWD-1

1021 E. Miramar Avenue • Claremont, California 91711-2052  
Telephone (909) 621-5568 • Fax (909) 625-5470 • <http://www.threevalleys.com>

*Mr. Lester Snow*  
*Support of the SDIP*  
*01/19/06*  
*Page 2*

FEB 27 2006 000221

agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water reliability, quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. As described, the program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3 to 5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available, and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. Funding for the program has already been secured through passage of the voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

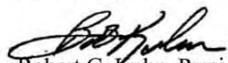
Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, public policy and planning organizations including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices to ensure California's healthy water future. Flexibility in our water delivery system will continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on the existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage its further development progress. We hope that all key stakeholders will help to advance this critically-needed project.

Thank you,  
*Three Valleys Municipal Water District*

  
Robert G. Kuhn, President  
Board of Directors

TVMWD-1

# Responses to Comments

## TVMWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter TLBWSD

TLBWSD



## TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

ESTABLISHED 1926

1001 CHASE AVENUE, CORCORAN, CALIFORNIA 93212  
PHONE (559) 992-4127 • FAX (559) 992-3891

January 9, 2006

JAN 12 2006 050

Lester Snow  
Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P. O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Support of South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Mr. Snow:

By this letter, the Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District is providing our support for DWR's South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). In October 2005, DWR and the Bureau released a draft EIR/EIS for public review and comment. This Program will provide water supply, water quality and environmental benefits critical to California's growing water requirements.

The Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District has a responsibility to our landowners to protect and enhance the water rights of the District in order to provide reliable irrigation water to lands within the District. This program is one of several programs that can meet that responsibility.

We would encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this much needed project.

Yours truly,

Brent L. Graham  
General Manager

Copies to:

- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Secretary Mike Chrisman, Resources Agency
- Director Joe Grindstaff, California Bay-Delta Authority
- Regional Director Kirk Rodgers, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation
- Deputy Cabinet Secretary Dan Skopec, Office of the Governor
- Cabinet Secretary Terry Tamminen, Office of the Governor

TLBWSD-1

COPY

• COMPRISING TULARE LAKE BED IN KINGS AND TULARE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA •  
• SERVING AGRICULTURE FOR OVER 75 YEARS •

Jan 12 2006 2:23PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 P.12

# Responses to Comments

## TLBWSD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter UWCD1

<p>Board of Directors Sheldon G. Berger, President Roger Orr, Vice President Bruce Dandy, Secretary/ Treasurer Robert Eranio Lynn Maulhardt Daniel C. Naumann F.W. Richardson</p> <p>Legal Counsel Philip C. Drescher</p> <p>General Manager Dana L. Wisenart</p>		<p>UWCD1 DEC 22 2005 00018</p>
<p><b>UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT</b> "Conserving Water Since 1927"</p>		
<p>December 14, 2005</p>		
<p>Mr. Lester Snow Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001</p>		
<p><b>RE: South Delta Improvements Program: Support</b></p>		
<p>Dear Director Snow,</p>		
<p>On behalf of United Water Conservation District (UWCD), I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.</p>		
<p>United's facilities include Santa Felicia Dam, Lake Piru Recreation Area, Saticoy, El Rio and Piru Spreading Grounds, Freeman Diversion, Pleasant Valley, Oxnard-Hueneme and Pumping Trough delivery systems including wells, reservoirs and booster pumping stations.</p>	<p>UWCD1-1</p>	
<p>United is both the sole recharger and the largest extractor of Oxnard Plain groundwater. United provides wholesale water to the City of Oxnard, Port Hueneme Water Agency, Pleasant Valley County Water District, agricultural users on the Pumping Trough Pipeline, approximately 12 mutual water companies, and numerous other retail customers. A seven-member elected board of directors directs the district's policy and activities.</p>		
<p>As you know, California is facing a critical challenge. We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its</p>		
<p>106 N. 8th Street • Santa Paula, California 93060 • Phone (805) 525-4431 • FAX: (805) 525-2661</p>		



UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DEC 22 2005 00018

importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. Additionally, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure

UWCD1-1



DEC 22 2005 00018

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

UWCD1-1

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheldon Berger".

Sheldon G. Berger  
President, Board of Directors

cc: BDRF

(*by facsimile*): ACWA

CSDA

Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633

Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102

Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297

Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, (916) 978-5114

Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

J:\ADMIN\Correspondence\Legislative 2005\12.14.05 South Delta Improvement Program - Support.doc  
File: Legislative Correspondence 2005

## Responses to Comments

### UWCD1-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter UWCD2

<p>Board of Directors Sheldon G. Berger, President Roger Orr, Vice President Bruce Dandy, Secretary/ Treasurer Robert Eranio Lynn Maulhardt Daniel C. Naumann F.W. Richardson</p> <p>Legal Counsel Philip C. Drescher</p> <p>General Manager Dana L. Wisehart</p>		<p><b>UWCD2</b> <i>L. Johnson</i> <i>A. Kelly</i></p> <p><b>JAN 30 2006</b>    <b>088</b></p>
<p><b>UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT</b> "Conserving Water Since 1927"</p>		
<p>January 9, 2006</p>		
<p>Mr. Lester Snow Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001</p>		
<p><b>RE: South Delta Improvements Program - Support</b></p>		
<p>Dear Director Snow,</p>		
<p>On behalf of United Water Conservation District, I am writing today to express our support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.</p>		
<p>United Water Conservation District is a public water agency responsible for conserving and protecting groundwater resources in Ventura County. In addition to the district's Lake Piru Recreation Area, United Water's facilities include: Santa Felicia Dam; spreading grounds in Saticoy, El Rio and Piru; an agricultural water delivery system; a wholesale municipal water delivery system; and the Freeman Diversion facility. The district provides wholesale water to the City of Oxnard, the Port Hueneme Water Agency (which includes the CBC and Point Mugu naval bases), Pleasant Valley County Water District, and several small mutual water companies. A seven-member elected board of directors directs the district's policy and activities.</p>		
<p>As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.</p>		
<p>106 N. 8th Street • Santa Paula, California 93060 • Phone (805) 525-4431 • FAX: (805) 525-2661</p>		

UWCD2-1



JAN 30 2006

088

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

UWCD2-1



UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JAN 30 2006

088

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheldon Berger".

Sheldon G. Berger  
President, Board of Directors

*cc (by facsimile):*

Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633  
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (916) 978-5114  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
Mr. Fred Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
Association of California Water Agencies (916) 325-2306  
Ann E. Newton, Red Gate Communications, Inc., (818) 784-1222  
Geoffrey Neil, CSDA (916) 442-7889  
BDRF

J:\ADMIN\Correspondence\Legislative 2006\SDIP Letter of Support 01.10.06.doc  
File: Legislative Correspondence 2006

## Responses to Comments

### UWCD2-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter VWD

	<b>VWD</b>
	DEC 22 2005 00013
<b>VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT</b> <small>A PUBLIC AGENCY</small>	
201 Vallecitos de Oro • San Marcos, California • 92069-1453 Telephone (760)744-0460	
December 7, 2005	
Mr. Lester Snow Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001	
RE: South Delta Improvements Program	
Dear Director Snow,	
<p>On behalf of Vallecitos Water District, I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.</p>	
<p>The mission of Vallecitos Water District is to provide planned, effective, equitable, and fiscally sound water and sewer service to all of its customers. Recognizing that resources are limited and valuable, the mission is also to preserve and protect these resources, promoting their conservation and re-use while maintaining a high level of community awareness.</p>	
<p>As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.</p>	
<p>In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.</p>	
<p>SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State</p>	
<small>M:\wp\NMDOC\AB SB HR bills support oppose\2005\South Delta Improvements Program.doc FAX numbers by Department: Administration (760) 744-2738; Engineering (760) 744-3507; Finance (760) 744-5989; Meadowlark Water Reclamation Facility (760) 744-2435; Operations/Maintenance (760) 744-5246 e-mail: vwd@vwd.org http://www.vwd.org</small>	

VWD-1

Mr. Snow  
December 7, 2005

DEC 22 2005 00013  
Page 2

Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

VWD-1

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



William W. Rucker  
General Manager

cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

VWD Board of Directors  
ACWA Outreach

M:\wp\NMDOC\AB SB HR bills support oppose\2005\South Delta Improvements Program.doc

# Responses to Comments

## VWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter WAKC

801 South Mt. Vernon Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93307 Phone: (661) 397-7426	 <b>WATER ASSOCIATION</b> OF KERN COUNTY	<b>WAKC</b> <i>DEC 22 2005</i> 00017 Fax: (661) 397-3403 Email: wakc@wakc.com www.wakc.com
December 8, 2005		
Mr. Lester Snow Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001		
RE: South Delta Improvements Program		
Dear Director Snow,		
On behalf of the Water Association of Kern County, I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.		
The Water Association of Kern County was organized in 1955 to keep the public well informed on activities in the field of water problems and on the continuing need for water as the basis of full development of Kern County and California. Since that time, the Association has carried forward a continuing program of public education-playing a major role in maintaining and expanding public awareness of water problems and the solutions proposed to solve them.		
As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.		
In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.		

WAKC-1

DEC 22 2005 00017

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

WAKC  
-1

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

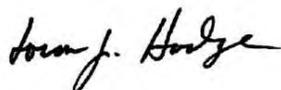
Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Loron J. Hodge  
Manager

## Responses to Comments

### WAKC-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter WWVD

DEC. -08' 05 (THU) 15:48 WWVD

12-07-2005 14:10 From: WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT 0084445621 T-084 P.002/009 F-029 P.003/005

---

**WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Edwin M. Hilden  
President  
Election Division II

Donald L. Nettlea  
First Vice President  
Election Division IV

Allen L. Wu  
Second Vice President  
Election Division I

Edward N. Layton  
Assistant Treasurer  
Election Division III

E. Fred Flores  
Director  
Election Division V

**STAFF:**

Karen J. Powers  
General Manager  
Secretary / Treasurer

**LEGAL COUNSEL:**

H. Jess Senecal

271 South Brea Canyon Road • P.O. Box 508  
Walnut, California 91789-3002 • (909) 595-1268 • (626) 984-6551  
Website: www.wvwd.com • Fax (909) 594-9532



December 6, 2005

JAN 12 2006 049

Mr. Lester Snow, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow:

On behalf of the Walnut Valley Water District, I am writing today to express the District's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process. Implementation of the SDIP will greatly enhance the District's efforts to fulfill its mission to "supply the highest quality of water at the lowest possible price."

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: A safe, reliable, and high quality water supply is needed to keep up with the rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, this arid state has limited water supplies, therefore, existing water resources and infrastructure must be better utilized. Otherwise, the state's communities, farms, environment, and businesses are at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance; better methods to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself, are needed. In essence, every drop must count!

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and ecosystem. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan, including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate the existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve the state's water supply reliability, water quality, and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly - only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

WWVD-1

Jan 12 2006 2:23PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.9

DEC. -08' 05 (THU) 15:49

P. 004/005

12-07-2005 14:11

From: WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

0094443621

T-054 P.003/003 F-013

Mr. Lester Snow  
Page 2

JAN 12 2006

049

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. The infrastructure to move the water is in place, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance - it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

WWWD-1

Importantly, SDIP will help protect vital Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials, including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association, and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California - critical to its families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that a more flexible water delivery system is available in order to accommodate growth in population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, the District strongly supports SDIP and encourages all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



EDWIN M. HILDEN  
President  
Board of Directors

EMH:ja

cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Mr. Ryan Broderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mr. Dan Skopac, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

p.10

Jan 12 2006 2:23PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220

DEC. -08' 05 (THU) 15:49

P. 005/005

JAN 12 2006

049

Ann E. Newton  
Red Gate Communications, Inc.  
13039 Ventura Blvd.  
Studio City, CA 91604  
(818) 784-1222 Office  
(818) 784-1220 Fax

Jan 12 2006 2:23PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 P.11

# Responses to Comments

## WVWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter WBMWD

**WBMWD**

**JAN 23, 2006 00223**

January 18, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Director Snow:

### **South Delta Improvements Program**

On behalf of the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin), I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

West Basin is a public agency that has been dedicated to providing a safe and adequate supplemental supply of high-quality water to its member agencies, communities, businesses and residents since 1947. West Basin has worked diligently to drought-proof the region by providing alternative water supplies to meet the needs of municipal, commercial, and industrial users to help conserve the potable water supply.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high-quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so it is imperative that the use of our existing water resources and infrastructure is significantly improved; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, new and innovative ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system should be considered, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan for efficient utilizing and integrating our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly -- only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

**WBMW  
D-1**

**JAN 23, 2006 00223**

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3 - 5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance -- it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources; specifically, protecting fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

WBMW  
D-1

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association, and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California -- critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, West Basin strongly supports SDIP and encourages all key stakeholders to facilitate advancement of this critically needed project.

Sincerely,

**William A. Baker**

William A. Baker, President  
West Basin Municipal Water District

cc: *(by facsimile)*

Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633  
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S.B.R., (916) 978-5114  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

# Responses to Comments

## WBMWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter WWD

Jan 26 2006 3:02PM

Red Gate Communications

818 784 1220

p.10

WWD



### Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

January 16, 2006

JAN 26 2006

000 99

Mr. Lester Snow  
Department of Water Resources  
State of California  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of Westlands Water District, I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This November, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

Since our inception in 1952, Westlands Water District has been striving to provide reliable and affordable water supply to its landowners and water users of which there are more than 600 family farmers and more than 600,000 acres farmed in western Fresno and Kings County. It is of critical importance to Westlands Water District that the best management practices are utilized in the water delivery systems throughout our state.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and ecosystem. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers

WWD-1

6 2006 3:02PM

JAN 26 2006 00077

cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter-approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

WWD-1

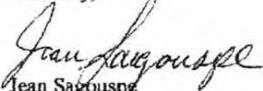
Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Jean Sagousspe  
President  
Westlands Water District

# Responses to Comments

## WWD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter WRMWS D

12/20/2005 09:51 FAX 6618582643 WRMWS D *J. Johnson* 001/002

**WRMWS D** *Katny Kelley*



**WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA  
WATER STORAGE DISTRICT**  
12109 Highway 166, Bakersfield, CA 93313-9630  
Telephone: 661.858.2281 • Fax: 661.858.2643 • Water Orders: 661.858.2296  
www.wrmwsd.com

---

**W. A. TAUBE**  
ENGINEER-MANAGER

**ROBERT J. KUNDE**  
ASST. ENGINEER-MANAGER

**MARK E. GARDNER**  
CONTROLLER

December 20, 2005

Mr. Lester Snow, Director  
Department of Water Resources  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

File 5.1.0

DEC 23 2005 036

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District, I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

The Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District provides agricultural water service to over 72,000 acres of farmland and through its conjunctive use program manages the water supply for an area over twice that size. The District relies on water from the State Water Project as its principle source of water supply to meet that need. Recent conversions of farmland from row crop to high value permanent crops make increasing the reliability of the State Water Project water supply a high priority for us.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to

1

WRMWS D-1

12/02/2005 09:51 FAX 6618582643

WRMWS

002/002

DEC 23 2005

036

protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

WRMWS-1

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Wm. A. Taube  
Engineer-Manager

WAT:llh

cc (by facsimile):

Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633

Mr. Ryan Broderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387

Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102

Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297

Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, (916) 978-5114

Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

C:\Documents and Settings\My Files\WPDOCS\Calif\WaterFuture-Support for SDIP Letter.wpd

## Responses to Comments

### WRMWSD-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter Z7WA



Z7WA

ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

100 NORTH CANYONS PARKWAY, LIVERMORE, CA 94551      PHONE (925) 454-5000

December 16, 2005

Mr. Lester Snow  
Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

JAN 19 2006 ~~00057~~  
00057

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of Zone 7 Water Agency, I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7 (also known as the Zone 7 Water Agency) is one of 29 contractors that receive water from the State Water Project, a major piece in California's critical water infrastructure landscape. Zone 7 is the water wholesaler to more than 200,000 people in the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin in eastern Alameda County. The State Water Project is our most significant resource for meeting local needs for drinking water and agricultural uses in our service area.

We believe that the preservation of a healthy Delta ecosystem is critical to maintaining its ability to function as a high quality water supply source, and that DWR projects should reflect these goals as equal priorities. The SDIP's ability to improve integration of the Delta water supply system and increase operational flexibility allows DWR to pump additional water supplies only when it is environmentally safe to do so. As such, we believe it reflects a balanced approach to Delta management.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and economy at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CALFED Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

Z7WA  
-1

JAN 19 2006 00057

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3 to 5 percent increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Z7WA-  
1

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

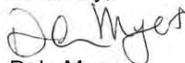
Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dale Myers  
General Manager  
Zone 7 Water Agency

cc (by facsimile): Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633  
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of  
Reclamation, (916) 978-5114  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

## Responses to Comments

### Z7WA-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.