

CITY COUNCIL

June 12, 2025

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COUNCILMEMBER PATTY LÓPEZ Governor Gavin Newsom 1021 0 Street, Suite 9000

Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire

1021 O St., Suite 8518 Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas State Capitol P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

RE: City of San Fernando Support for Legislative Package to Streamline Delta Conveyance Project

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem McGuire, and Speaker Rivas:

On behalf of the San Fernando City Council, I am writing to request your support for Governor Newsom's legislative package seeking to remove time-consuming administrative barriers and uncertainties to expedite the review of the Delta Conveyance Project.

The Delta Conveyance Project aims to increase the long-term reliability of the State Water Project, which delivers water to communities across California, and is critical to the state's economic success. On average, the water delivery system supplies about 30% of the water used in Southern California and, in wet years, delivers up to half of the region's water supplies.

As a small agency, San Fernando is a proud independent water jurisdiction, with groundwater rights sufficient to serve all of the City's residents. However, in emergency instances, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), functions as the City's back-up water source. The strengthening of the State Water Project will continue to build climate and water resiliency for the San Fernando community through equipping MWD with a streamlined path forward to increased water capture.

The aging State Water Project is vulnerable to climate change, earthquakes, and other threats. A recent report from the Department of Water Resources found that the State Water Project could see a significant decline in delivery capability over the next two decades, equivalent to nearly half a million acre feet of water, enough to supply 1.7 million households.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Governor Newsom, Pro Tem McGuire, & Speaker Rivas

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The Delta Conveyance Project proposes to modernize the State Water Project by enhancing its ability to capture and move more water in times of high flows in the watershed and convey that water to surface reservoirs and groundwater basins, improving California's drought resilience. Its review and approval process has been hampered by red tape and delays, costing Californians hundreds of millions of dollars, and hindering the state's ability to address its water supply reliability challenges.

The legislation proposed by Governor Newsom would expedite review of the Delta Conveyance Project – meaning lower costs, fewer delays, and better information so that local water agencies can make decisions about funding the construction of this project.

This correspondence is provided in accordance with the City of San Fernando's Adopted Legislative Policy and 2025 Legislative Platform, specifically to support legislation that would provide resources to address severe western drought conditions and access to safe drinking water (Strengthen Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice - Supports No. 6).

The City values the Delta Conveyance Project's potential for positive impact and supports the proposed expedited review process brought forward through the Governor's legislative package. If you have any questions, please email me at nkimball@sfcity.org.

Sincerely,

Nick Kimball, City Manager City of San Fernando

(nrichardson@mwdh2o.com)

cc:

Honorable Caroline Menjivar, California State Senator, 20th Senate District (senate.ca.gov; Brandon.gonzalez@senate.ca.gov)

Honorable Celeste Rodriguez, California State Assemblymember, 39th Assembly District (Joana.Reyes@asm.ca.gov; Gus.Villela@asm.ca.gov)

Jennifer Quan, League of California Cities (jquan@cacities.org)

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Nichol Richardson, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California