



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

Representing Carpenters in Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado

R. Phil Newkirk, Supervisor

Representing Local
Unions in Southern
California, Nevada,
Arizona, Utah, New
Mexico and Colorado

May 28, 2014

Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chair, Energy & Environment Committee
Los Angeles City Council
City Hall Office
200 North Spring Street, Room 455
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN (COUNCIL FILE 12- 1909-S1)

Dear Councilmember Fuentes,

I am writing today to express the support of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and its goal of protecting the water supply that serves 26 million Californians, businesses and 3 million acres of farmland in California. This water supply is essential to Los Angeles, and the entire state, fueling jobs and our economy.

But this needed supply is at risk. The water that so many depend on moves through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and is protected today only by a maze of 100 year old levees that are vulnerable to failure. Leading experts have determined that when a major earthquake hits the Bay Area, these levees could collapse, allowing saltwater from the San Francisco Bay to contaminate freshwater. It could take up to a year to re-establish this water as a usable supply. Southern California would lose a third of its water supply, and other areas may lose even more. With over thirty thousand of our union members working in California, we are deeply concerned about how the loss of so much water would impact the state.

Building a modern water delivery system as proposed in the BDCP is essential. Construction of two tunnels that route a portion of water underneath, rather than through, the fragile Delta would protect water supplies in a seismic event.

In addition to the obvious benefits of having safe, reliable water supplies, it's estimated that the BDCP would create and protect more than one million jobs. The construction of the tunnels designed under BDCP and accompanying habitat restoration projects would create more than 155,000 jobs—including jobs for Carpenter union members. Many more jobs will be protected. Without the BDCP, a decline in water supply reliability would threaten jobs. But with BDCP, nearly one million jobs would be protected throughout the state.

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150 Camarillo
184 Salt Lake City
209 Sylmar
244 Eagle
407 Albuquerque
408 Phoenix
409 Los Angeles
510 Denver
515 Colorado Springs
547 San Diego
630 Long Beach
721 Whittier
743 Bakersfield
803 Buena Park
897 Bullhead City
944 Ontario
971 Reno
1245 Las Cruces
1498 Provo
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1977 Las Vegas
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West Jordan, UT 84088
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Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 256-3396
Fax: (505) 268-9066

4290 Holly Street
Denver, CO 80216
(303) 355-8774
Fax: (303) 355-6130

This plan is a smart and overdue investment for California that will provide a needed update to our 50-year old water system. The cost, spread among water users from the Bay Area to San Diego, is roughly \$5 per household a month phased in over the course of ten years. In Los Angeles, the cost is estimated to be about \$2 per household each month. It's an insurance policy worth buying because the price of inaction is even greater.

As we continue to face one of the worst droughts in our state's history, we need to ensure that we are preparing for future generations. The local water supply projects being developed and implemented in Los Angeles will certainly add to the region's water supply reliability, but these projects must be coupled with a solid statewide foundation. After eight years of development, refinement and review, it's time to get BDCP across the finish line. We urge you to join us in supporting this important process.

Sincerely,


R. Phil Newkirk

Southwest Regional Council Supervisor

cc: Honorable Eric Garcetti
Honorable Gilbert Cedillo
Honorable Paul Krekorian
Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Honorable Tom LaBonge
Honorable Paul Koretz
Honorable Nury Martinez
Honorable Bernard Parks
Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.
Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Honorable Mike Bonin
Honorable Mitchell Englander
Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
Honorable Jose Huizar
Honorable Joe Buscaino