

June 16, 2014

Via E-mail and U.S. Mail

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

Dear Councilmember Fuentes:

We are writing to support the advancement of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (“BDCP”).

Currently, water that serves our own region, 26 million Californians, and 3 million acres of farmland are protected by fragile dirt levees. This water moves through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (“Delta”), where 100-year-old levees separate the vital fresh water supplies from salt water in the San Francisco Bay. When a major earthquake hits the Bay Area, which the U.S. Geological Survey says is 63 percent likely to happen in the next 30 years, these levees could crumble and the water supply would be unusable for up to a year. If this were to occur our region’s economy would be significantly harmed – the statewide economic toll could top \$40 billion.

The BDCP will move our state’s water infrastructure into the 21st century. By using modern solutions we can protect these supplies and increase water supply reliability we in Greater Los Angeles depend on. In order to ensure the reliability of these supplies, BDCP would construct two tunnels that would transport water underneath, instead of through, the fragile Delta. For more than seven years, state and federal agencies, in concert with experts and stakeholder groups across the state, have developed this plan to safeguard the hub of our state’s water supply.

This plan is a smart and overdue investment for California that will provide a needed update to our 50-year old water system. 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 project.

Please do not hesitate to contact George Kieffer at (310) 312-4146 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Avila

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***Note: Titles are included for identification purposes only.**

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