



June 2, 2014

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

Dear Councilmember Fuentes:

Maria Elena Durazo
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Ricardo E. Icaza
President

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO supports your motion regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

The Bay Delta water supply is essential to Los Angeles – a supply that supports our communities and our economy. But, this much-needed supply is at risk. Today, the water so many depend upon moves through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta protected by a maze of 100 year old levees that are vulnerable to failure. Leading experts have determined that in the event of a major earthquake in the Bay Area, these levees could collapse, allowing saltwater from the San Francisco Bay to contaminate freshwater. In fact, 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.

As representatives of more than 600,000 working men and women in Los Angeles County, we are deeply concerned about how the loss of so much water would impact our region.

Building a modern water delivery system is both critical and complicated. The large number of affected constituencies makes this a one of a kind project that results in a truly historic debate. Therefore, as the discussions center around the best way to deliver water to millions of Californians, do not forget the number of good jobs at stake – both construction jobs, operations jobs and maintenance jobs. The BDCP can bring both water and good paying jobs to Southern California. But, the emphasis of good jobs will occur only if you and other local and statewide leaders continue to make it a central part of the public debate.

Therefore, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO supports the Fuentes/Wesson motion to ensure that the City of Los Angeles continues to be a part of this important debate.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Durazo
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

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cc: Mayor, City of Los Angeles
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