



RON MILLER
Executive Secretary

Los Angeles / Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council

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June 3, 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

Dear Councilmember Fuentes,

As the Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, I represent 140,000 members within 50 affiliated local unions for 14 Trades.

We strongly support 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. This water supply is essential to Los Angeles and the entire state, fueling jobs and our economy. We also support your motion for the City of Los Angeles to comment on the development and implementation of the BDCP in order to represent the interests of its residents. 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. Experts say that when a major earthquake hits the Bay Area, those 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.

This drastic loss of water would bring our livelihood to a standstill, since every construction permit requires a reliable source of water. In addition, the effects on health and quality of life would be devastating.

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, it's estimated the BDCP would create and protect more than 1 million jobs, including 155,000 in construction. This will have a direct economic impact. The Building Trades are a conduit into the middle class for Californians of all backgrounds through our apprenticeship programs. In order to bring in new apprentices, we need to have jobs for them.

The cost of BDCP, spread among water users from the Bay Area to San Diego, is roughly \$5 per household per month phased in over the course of 10 years. In Los Angeles, the cost is estimated to be about \$2 per household each month. It's an insurance policy worth buying. 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 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 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,



Ron Miller
Executive Secretary

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

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