

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL



LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA, AFL-CIO

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JUN 18 2014

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June 17, 2014

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MEW MEXICO ALSUQUERQUE LOCAL 16 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:

We are writing today to express our support 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. As representatives of more than 27,000 union workers 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.





Honorable Felipe Fuentes, Chair, Energy & Environment Committee Page 2 June 17, 2014

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—from pipe fitters to machine operators. 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.

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,

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Armando "Mando" Esparza Business Manager Southern California District Council of Laborers



CC:

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Honorable Tom LaBonge
Honorable Paul Koretz
Honorable Paul Koretz
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