

September 12, 2017

Councilmember Nury Martinez
Chair of Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 17-0930

Dear Chairwoman Martinez:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I write in strong support of the California WaterFix. The Chamber has long supported Governor Brown's plan to ensuring our long-term water reliability while preserving the environment because we believe that water security is the foundation of our economy.

Currently, two-thirds of California's water comes from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and flows through the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta to other parts of the state, including 30 percent of our water here in Southern California. However, our water distribution system is primarily composed of outdated, 100-year old levees that are vulnerable to collapse in a major natural disaster.

California WaterFix would protect the State's economy by constructing two water intake pipes north of the Delta in the Sacramento River, away from the vulnerable levee. Water would be transported about 30 miles south through twin tunnel pipelines. This new conveyance would protect the Delta ecosystem and native species with state-of-the-art fish screens. After a decade of planning and engineering, and a quarter billion dollars, California WaterFix has emerged as the safest and most sophisticated water project California has ever seen.

Managing water in California is challenging, given the many stakeholders and diverse perspectives. Yet there is a glaring need to improve the existing system for the sake of the Delta's environment and our state's economy. We have made great progress using conservation and expanding our local water supplies, however, for some portions of our region, like the San Fernando Valley, the Delta and State Water Project is the only source of imported water that can reach their treatment facilities.

As our public comment at the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee on August 29th reflected, the California WaterFix is the most cost-effective alternative and needed in our community. If we tried to develop new local supplies to replace the imported water supply we would lose without California WaterFix, it would cost two or more times as much per average household in the Metropolitan service area. Additionally, the project will create and protect 1.1 million full-time equivalent jobs in California.

For these reasons, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce stands in strong support of the California WaterFix and urges your support.

Sincerely,



Gary Toebben
President & CEO

Cc:
Councilmember Koretz
Councilmember Krekorian
Councilmember O'Farrell
Councilmember Cedillo
Adam Lid, Office of City Clerk: Council and Public Services Division

