



NEWS RELEASE

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MWDOC Directors Urge Support for Critical Water Project

California WaterFix would supply 25 million people; boost economy by \$400 billion

Fountain Valley, CA (December 7, 2016) – Recognizing the importance of the California WaterFix to Southern California’s water reliability, Directors of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) on December 5 unanimously approved a resolution of support for the proposed project.

The California WaterFix would stabilize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and ensure reliable water supplies from Northern California. About half of the water delivered to Orange County flows through the Delta into the State Water Project (SWP), which carries it south. Water through the SWP is also critical to filling Southern California’s emergency storage.

“The California WaterFix is critical to ensuring we can continue to reliably serve our customers with water from north of the Delta,” MWDOC President Wayne Osborne said. “It’s not about getting more water, it’s about reliability and protecting our investments. It is not a question of “if;” without decisive action, the Delta will fail.”

About 25 million people – from Orange County to Silicon Valley -- rely on this same vital water supply. Securing its reliability will protect nearly 1 million jobs statewide, based on a University of California study. Projections show the project would create 1.1 million jobs and boost the state economy by \$400 billion.

MWDOC is a wholesale water supplier serving 2.2 million people in Orange County. The agency’s resolution in support of the WaterFix passed 7-0. MWDOC is launching a campaign to build support for decisive action among Orange County leaders and residents.

The California WaterFix would stabilize water deliveries by constructing tunnels that would allow water to travel south beneath the Delta, rather than through it. Additionally, the intakes would move north of the Delta, providing more protection to the Delta Smelt and other fish.

Had the Waterfix been in place the past year, enough additional water would have been captured to supply 2.5 million families. Regulations and other conditions allowed that water to flow to the ocean.

The California WaterFix, projected to cost \$15 billion, would be paid for by those who receive the water. Southern California’s share is expected to be approximately 25 percent. In addition to improving water deliveries, it would also help protect water supplies from an earthquake that would destroy many of the Delta’s 50-year-old levees.

MWDOC’s Water Reliability Study found the California WaterFix is the single most cost-effective project to ensure long term water reliability. Without the WaterFix or substantial local projects, OC would face frequent shortages requiring residents to cut back water use.

Federal and state environmental studies are underway on the WaterFix. While the State Water Project originally envisioned a conveyance system that would take water around the Delta instead of through it, the WaterFix faces opposition in Northern California. The California WaterFix is paired with California EcoRestore, which would stabilize the Delta through extensive habitat restoration.

For more information about the California WaterFix, see www.californiawaterfix.com

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