

December 14, 2015

Sent via E-mail and US Mail



Mr. Randy Fiorini, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Single-Year Water Transfers: Action Item for December 17, 2015
Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) Meeting

Dear Mr. Fiorini:

The State Water Contractors (SWC) is an organization representing 27 of the 29 public water entities¹ that hold contracts with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water. Collectively, the SWC members provide all, or a part, of the water supply delivered to approximately 25 million Californians, roughly two-thirds of the State's population, and to over 750,000 acres of irrigated agriculture.

During dry and critically dry years, the SWC has engaged in single-year water transfer programs with sellers from the Sacramento Valley. In dry years, these programs have produced about 20,000 af to 100,000 af (before carriage losses) of supplemental water for critical needs for both municipal and agricultural users. The physical movement of this supplemental transfer water during the summer months can benefit rivers and delta as well as providing DWR additional flexibility in operating the State Water Project.

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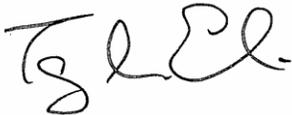
¹ The SWC members are: Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Zone 7; Alameda County Water District; Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency; Casitas Municipal Water District on behalf of the Ventura County Flood Control District; Castaic Lake Water Agency; Central Coast Water Authority on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water District; City of Yuba City; Coachella Valley Water District; County of Kings; Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency; Desert Water Agency; Dudley Ridge Water District; Empire-West Side Irrigation District; Kern County Water Agency; Littlerock Creek Irrigation District; The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Mojave Water Agency; Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; Oak Flat Water District; Palmdale Water District; San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; San Geronio Pass Water Agency; San Luis Obispo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; Santa Clara Valley Water District; Solano County Water Agency; and, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District.

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In implementing single-year water transfers, time is of the essence. In nearly all years, the time available to develop a water transfer is extremely limited, normally consisting of a few weeks. During this compressed timeline, the reviews and analysis associated with CEQA/NEPA, the State Water Resources Control Board, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the Department of Water Resources are arduous. Considering the limited time available for single-year transfers and the existing level of review, the SWC feels that there is already adequate oversight on single-year water transfers within California. Therefore, we support the DSC staff's Option 1 recommendation [the exclusion of one-year water transfers as covered actions under the DSC purview].

If you, your fellow DSC members, or DSC staff have any questions, please call me at (916) 447-7357 x203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Erlewine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Terry Erlewine
General Manager

cc: member agencies