



June 1, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor, State of California
 1021 O Street, Ste. 9000
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
 President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
 1021 O Street, Ste. 7730
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
 Speaker, California State Assembly
 1021 O Street, Ste. 8330
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

As water managers from across the state, who have the responsibility to plan and provide for our customers' water future, we have an urgent message: We need new water now. Our collective ability to provide water supply and supply reliability for your constituents, and California's economy, is collapsing and in a crisis that extends beyond the current drought.

California's existing water system can no longer deliver the water necessary to maintain Californians' quality of life that the world's fifth largest economy demands. You must act to change this trajectory. Maintaining the status quo is a recipe for deeper and perpetual disaster.

Later this year, it is likely that some water agencies will be forced to cut back, or completely cut off, water supplies to commercial and industrial customers. How will a beverage plant make soda or a brewery make beer without water? They won't. This is more than a drought; it is a water crisis.

This is a crisis brought about by not investing in adapting our infrastructure to the new hydrology climate change has already wrought. Without such investments in restoring the capability to meet the needs of society, public health, and the economy, we will not have the luxury to devote already too thinly stretched water resources to address California's environmental management challenges.

The Governor just proposed \$2 billion in this year's budget on water related funding, with a mere \$500 million for strategic water storage over multiple years, which barely scratches the surface of what's needed. The Senate's proposed \$7.5 billion over three years on water related issues is an improvement, but indicative of misplaced priorities in the face of the water supply crisis, the biggest Senate investment would be spending \$2.5

billion to increase permanent dedications of water to the environment. These budget priorities demonstrate the chasm between California’s pressing water supply needs and Sacramento’s current water priorities.

California needs a new strategy to invest in adapting water systems to the new hydrologic realities and increase water supply capabilities as quickly as humanly possible. We need a bold solution. Adapting to this challenge requires infrastructure that can store surplus water when it is available, while reducing increasing flood risks, and deploy it for human uses when water is not available. It is time to fund water infrastructure aligned with the new climate reality of significantly reduced snowpack and increased precipitation volatility.

As water managers from across the state, we know what it will take to start investing in the future of our water infrastructure – we simply ask you to listen. It starts with understanding that our current water capture and delivery system is archaic, designed and built before the impacts of climate change, as evidenced by the stark reality of the dangerously low levels in all reservoirs across the state. The response can’t be to keep taking away supplies necessary to meet the needs of your constituents and the economy. It is time to have an honest and difficult discussion about what it will take to solve the problem. There can be no sacred cows.

How could things be different today if we had already followed the course we are suggesting? The Department of Water Resources recently noted that if the Delta Conveyance Project was operational at the end of 2021, the State Water Project would have captured about 236,000 acre-feet of additional water - enough water for over 2.5 million people, or nearly 850,000 households, for a full year. Another project, Sites Reservoir, will increase the resiliency of water supplies because it will not rely on spring snowmelt for filling but instead will capture storm runoff and some related flood water. Were Sites online, nearly 1-million-acre feet of additional water would have been available to support the environment, farms and cities in 2021.

An “all of the above” strategy is necessary, including improvements in water use efficiency. However, telling people to use less and hoping for rain is not a strategy – it’s a capitulation to social and economic disaster. We need to go BIG. We need more of everything, and we need a bold plan for it now. We are ready to help.

Sincerely,



Craig Miller
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District



Jeffrey Kightlinger
Interim General Manager
Pasadena Water and Power



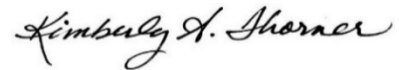
Paul Helliker
General Manager
San Juan Water District



Jeff Sims
General Manager
Rubidoux Community Services District



Matthew Litchfield
General Manager
Three Valleys Municipal Water District



Kimberly Thorne
General Manager
Olivenhain Municipal Water District



Allison Febbo
General Manager
Mojave Water Agency



Gary Arant
General Manager
Valley Center Municipal Water District



Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.
General Manager
Mesa Water District



Jim Abercrombie
General Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District



Chris Berch
General Manager
Jurupa Community Services District



Tom Coleman
General Manager
Rowland Water District



John Bosler
General Manager/CEO
Cucamonga Valley Water District



J. M. Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District



Heather Dyer, MS, MBA
CEO/General Manager
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water
District



Miguel J. Guerrero, P.E.
General Manager
San Bernardino Municipal Water
Department



Dennis LaMoreaux
General Manager
Palmdale Water District



Erik Hitchman
General Manager
Walnut Valley Water District



Greg Thomas
General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District



Jeff R. Pape
General Manager
Temescal Valley Water District



Stephan Tucker
General Manager
Water Replenishment District of
Southern California

CC: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Philip Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee