



December 2, 2020

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Board Item 7-4
Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors
December 8, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the 200 members of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC), I urge your approval of Metropolitan's share of the costs necessary to complete the state's environmental review and planning process for the Delta Conveyance Project. It is essential that the requisite funding be authorized to move the planning process to conclusion to help shape future decisions regarding final participation in the project.

Our membership, which stretches from the Mexican border on the south to Kern County in the north, is broad and unlike any other in its inclusion of leaders from business, county and city government, agriculture, labor, environmental organizations, water agencies and the general public. We have long recognized that enormous challenges lay ahead to ensure a reliable and affordable water future, particularly with the real likelihood of extreme droughts and floods, rising temperatures, depleted groundwater basins, and aging infrastructure. Each of these challenges is consequential on its own. Together, they pose a grave threat that is only intensified by seismic vulnerabilities and sea level rise due to climate change.

As highlighted by Governor Newsom's own Water Resilience Portfolio, a state as big and diverse as California requires a balanced approach that includes a portfolio of water supply projects and management techniques that all work together to achieve statewide resilience. We believe that California's path toward resilience hinges on a right-sized Delta Conveyance project that delivers the necessary water for California and provides an overall benefit to the project beneficiaries. Local and regional supply projects such as water recycling, groundwater storage and recharge, stormwater capture, conservation and desalination all are critical components to the overall water supply portfolio. But the Delta Conveyance Project is the necessary





cornerstone component to building a diversified portfolio, at about half of the cost of large-scale local projects. Our future depends on a comprehensive approach.

For all of the above reasons, the SCWC urges your approval of Metropolitan's share of funding as proposed by your staff. If you have any questions or wish additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (949) 632-2074 or by email at cwilson@socalwater.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to engage in your deliberative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charley Wilson".

Charley Wilson
Executive Director and CEO
Southern California Water Coalition

cc: Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of the State of California
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Karla Nemeth, Director, California Department of Water Resources