

Southern California's regional economy was founded on an engineering feat that brought water from far away headwaters of the Colorado River and the Sierras hundreds of miles to the Southland. While our local water agencies are working hard to develop new regional supplies like recycled water and conservation, imported water still delivers more than half of the water needed for our region to continue to thrive and grow.

As the West approaches what could be a sixth year of drought, there is a growing sense of urgency to ensure we have reliable water supplies for businesses, families and communities into the future. This is why it is especially important for Southern Californians to be aware that after decades of population and economic growth, California's water system is in critical need of an infrastructure upgrade.

Much of the water delivered to Southern California comes through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via the State Water Project (SWP). This system provides approximately one-third of the water supply to Southern California's 19 million residents, and 100% of the supply to many residents in areas exclusively served by the SWP. But the Delta's declining ecosystem and 1,100-mile levee system are increasingly vulnerable. An earthquake or major levee failure in the Delta could cut off this vital water supply for several years.

California WaterFix and California EcoRestore are comprehensive solutions proposed by state and federal agencies to ensure our state has a reliable water supply for years to come. These plans represent the most comprehensive effort in our state's history to address the long-standing water system and ecosystem crisis in the Delta. The final environmental analyses for California WaterFix will soon be completed and a Record of Decision to approve the project is expected in the months ahead.

As these two projects advance, hundreds of civic and business organizations across the state are already on record to support California Water Fix. This project will support our \$1.7 trillion economy, 25 million residents, nearly 3 million acres of agriculture and more than 750 diverse plants and animal species. Our organization has supported investing in a reliable State Water Project in the past, and we must stay engaged over the coming months to see that final approvals move forward on California WaterFix for the continued growth of our economy.