

### **Delta Counties Coalition**

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

*"Working together on water and Delta issues"*

August 29, 2019

Cara Martinson  
California State Association of Counties  
1100 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: CSAC Request for Comments on the Water Portfolio**

Dear Ms. Martinson:

Thank you for the ability to comment on Governor Newsom's proposed water portfolio. As you may know, the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) is composed of elected members from Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo counties and has spent the past decade advocating for genuine Statewide water solutions that support all communities.

The DCC believes that increased Delta exports have caused a drastic decline in the health of the estuary and will eventually lead to an irreversible collapse and that sustainable solutions that provide resiliency against climate change must be prioritized. The DCC recommends the following strategic, affordable, and unifying portfolio of statewide solutions to secure resilient, long-term water supplies that preserve precious natural resources for all generations:

- **Regional Self-Sufficiency.** Many communities are diversifying their water supplies because local sources are the most cost-effective, reliable and support local jobs, local control and the economy. The State should encourage local self-sufficiency by provide funding and/or resources to local agencies to incorporate practices like stormwater capture, forest management, water purification, desalination, reuse and recycling, conservation, groundwater cleanup and conjunctive use.
- **Upgrades and Maintenance of Existing Water Infrastructure.** Significant investments in existing infrastructure are needed to address security, replacement, maintenance and reliability for California's water infrastructure system.
- **System wide Levee Improvements.** Strengthening Delta levees is critical to safeguarding the lives and livelihood of four million Delta residents. Delta levees protect over \$20 billion of essential infrastructure, support a vital agricultural industry that contributes more than \$4 billion to the State's economy.
- **Environmental Restoration.** Mounting scientific evidence shows that floodplain and tidal habitat restoration, combined with adequate flows, can benefit salmon and other species.

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- Groundwater and Surface Storage. By providing additional storage throughout the state, and specifically in the south-of-Delta export area, can capture water from the Delta during wet months as well as provide much needed water in drier periods when exports are damaging to the Delta. Storage projects have potential to capture hundreds of thousands of acre-feet in storm water for later use during droughts. Such additional storage will reduce reliance on the Delta for future water needs of California, in keeping with the requirement of the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

The DCC is committed to achieving the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. We believe it is possible to have a portfolio approach that does not include a tunnel. We urge CSAC to provide the Governor with these ideas for alternatives to a tunnel and urge the investment of state resources into local projects that can provide additional supply and storage without damaging the Delta.

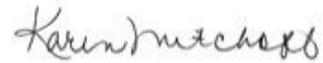
Sincerely,



Don Nottoli  
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Skip Thomson  
Supervisor, Solano County



Karen Mitchoff  
Supervisor, Contra Costa County



Oscar Villegas  
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn  
Supervisor, San Joaquin County