



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE CLAREMONT AREA

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...serving the cities of Claremont, Alta Loma, Chino, Chino Hills, Diamond Bar, Glendora, LaVerne, Montclair, Ontario, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, San Dimas, and Upland

Chairman Randy Record,
Officers and Members of the Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054

September 20, 2017

Re: *WaterFix* is Not A Wise Investment

Dear Chairman Record and Colleagues,

All Californians should be troubled by *WaterFix*, the Department of Water Resources' plan to bore two tunnels, each as wide as a 4-story building and 35 miles long, under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. They are intended to modernize the State Water Project that delivers water south to agriculture and Southern California cities.

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) has concluded that this is not a wise investment. The Claremont Area chapter supports this conclusion and urges you to fund State Water Project system modernization using regional self-reliance as the standard.

LWVC is persuaded that the preliminary estimate of \$15.5 billion should instead fund a range of job-creating regional projects that would benefit small and medium-sized farms and urban communities currently served by the State Water Project. It could fund measures to sustain some level of through-Delta exports in the near- to mid-term. Regional investments could buffer against growing sea level rise and salt-water intrusion. They could fund deferred maintenance on existing infrastructure. Regional projects to aggressively reuse reclaimed municipal water would significantly increase the security and reliability of our water supply. For example, reclaimed supplies used to conjunctively manage local groundwater resources would improve resilience to drought.

The Pacific Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council have shown that Californians annually use at least 6 million acre feet more water than the state's rivers and aquifers can sustainably provide. In their analysis, Californians could save up to 14 million acre-feet each year through water reuse, storm water capture, and increased agricultural and urban efficiency. That contrasts favorably with *WaterFix* that plans to deliver 6.3 million acre-feet of snow-melt water from the Sacramento River watershed. It does not seem prudent to tie urban households all over Southern California to the hope that the Sacramento River will have more snow in the future than in the recent past.

Our healthy California economy requires sustainable water delivery systems. That means less, not more, reliance on large-scale water infrastructure that, like Oroville Dam and the State Water Project canals, is vulnerable to design and construction failures, earthquakes, and rising sea levels. When it comes to water, California needs to redefine "visionary" with regional self-reliance in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tressa Kentner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Tressa Kentner, President League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area
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Cc:
David de Jesus, MWD Vice-Chair and Representative from Three Valleys MWD
Michael Camacho, MWD Board Member and Representative from Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager, MWD