

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

To The
Local Agency Formation Commission

Commissioner **David H. West** [Public]

Commissioner **Michael W. Kelley** [Supervisor]

Commissioner **Jason Jackson** [City]

Commissioner **Ray Castillo** [Supervisor] (Vice-Chair)

Commissioner **Maria Nava-Froelich** [City] (Chair)

Alternate Commissioner **Luis Plancarte** [Supervisor]

Alternate Commissioner **Jim Predmore** [City]

Alternate Commissioner **Ed Snively** [Public]

REPORT DATE: November 13, 2018

FROM: Jurg Heuberger, Executive Officer
Report by Paula Graf, Analyst



PROJECT: California WaterFix

HEARING DATE: December 13, 2018

TIME: 08:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6

HEARING LOCATION: El Centro City Council Chambers, 1275 Main St., El Centro, CA 92243

RECOMMENDATION(S) BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER (In Summary & Order)

OPTION #1: Direct the Executive Officer to send a "support" letter as presented

OPTION #2: Direct the Executive Officer to send a "support" letter as presented with modifications

OPTION #3: Decline the request and notify Mr. Wilson, SCWC

ANAYLSIS/REPORT

The Southern Region of LAFCOs (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego) meet on a bi-annual basis to discuss issues of mutual interest.

At the August 13th meeting, a representative of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District made a presentation concerning California WaterFix.

Charley Wilson, the Executive Director and CEO of the Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC), suggested that the six Southern LAFCOs sign a joint letter of support of California WaterFix.

As a follow-up to the meeting, Mr. Wilson e-mailed the Executive Officer requesting that Imperial LAFCO take a position in support of California WaterFix.

What is California WaterFix:

California WaterFix is a “science-driven upgrade to our aging water system” that will “provide clean, reliable water while protecting our environment” (quoted from the California WaterFix website). The effort is a comprehensive effort to upgrade the systems transporting water from Northern California while concurrently protecting the Sacramento Bay Delta environment. One component of this effort is the construction of “twin tunnels” to transport water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers nears Sacramento. Detailed information can be obtained from their website at www.californiawaterfix.com.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Executive Officer that LAFCO conduct a public hearing and consider all information presented in both written and oral form. The Executive Officer then recommends, assuming no significant public input warrants to the contrary, that LAFCO take the following action:

Taking a position on California WaterFix is a policy matter for the Commission. The Executive Officer, therefore, provides options but no specific recommendation.

- OPTION #1:** Direct the Executive Officer to send a “support” letter as presented
- OPTION #2:** Direct the Executive Officer to send a “support” letter as presented with modifications
- OPTION #3:** Decline the request and notify Mr. Wilson, SCWC

Attachments:

Draft Support Letter

December 13, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor, State of California
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

At the December 13th meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Imperial, the Commission voted to Support California WaterFix.

The Commission supports modernizing the state's aging water delivery system to ensure a reliable water supply for our region's future. Roughly nearly 30 percent of the water that flows out of taps in Southern California comes from Northern California via the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta's delivery system is antiquated, a problem compounded both by a declining ecosystem and 1,100-mile levee system that are increasingly vulnerable.

California WaterFix is a comprehensive solution proposed by state and federal agencies to ensure our state has a reliable water supply for many years to come. It would modernize the decades-old delivery system through the building of three new intakes in the northern Delta along with two tunnels to carry water to the existing aqueduct system in the southern Delta.

We believe that California WaterFix will provide LAFCO and its stakeholders the opportunity to demonstrate vision and leadership in tackling one of our region's most important issues; further, by facilitating future changes in local water supply development, it will improve the delivery of municipal water services in the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Maria Nava-Froelich
Chair

CC: The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
Ms. Gloria D. Gray, Chairwoman, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Charles Wilson, Executive Director and CEO, Southern California Water Coalition