



# COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

*Established in 1918 as a public agency*

GENERAL MANAGER  
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD  
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
Dan Charlton

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Comm  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Budget Comm  
1020 N Street, Room 502 Sacramento, CA  
95814

The Honorable Ben Allen  
Chair, Senate Budget Sub Comm #2  
1021 O Street, Suite 6610  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett  
Chair, Asm. Budget Sub Comm #4  
1021 O Street, Suite 4710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Delta Conveyance Project Streamlining Trailer Bill**

Dear Governor Newsom, Senator President Pro Tempore McGuire, Speaker Rivas, Chairperson's Wiener, Gabriel, Allen and Bennett,

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), which serves approximately 270,000 residents from the San Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, is pleased to support Governor Newsom's legislative package aimed at fast-tracking the Delta Conveyance Project, and I am writing to request your support for this important legislation.

The Delta Conveyance Project aims to increase the long-term reliability of the State Water Project, which delivers water to communities across California through the State Water Project and is critical to our entire state's economic success. On average, the water delivery system supplies about 30% of the water used in Southern California, and in wet years it delivers up to half of the region's water supplies

Reliable water supply is vital to the Coachella Valley and the surrounding communities, where annual rainfall averages just four inches. CVWD depends on water from the State Water Project, which is used to replenish local groundwater basins that serve residents, agriculture, and businesses. Without consistent deliveries, our region's ability to support economic development, public health, and long-term sustainability is at risk. The Delta Conveyance Project represents a critical investment in stabilizing these supplies against increasing climate volatility. By modernizing the state's water infrastructure, this project ensures continued access to the water that fuels both our communities' and California's broader economy.

The State Water Project is the fundamental backbone of California's economy, supporting communities, industries, and ecosystems. It stores and moves high-quality, affordable water for 27 million people and 750,000 acres of farmland. The economic success of California is contingent on our state having a reliable water supply. The State Water Project has historically been one of those supplies. It is a cornerstone of our state's water infrastructure.

But the aging State Water Project is vulnerable to climate change, earthquakes, and other threats. A recent report from the Department of Water Resources found that the State Water Project could see a significant decline in delivery capability over the next two decades, equivalent to nearly half a million acre-feet of water, enough to supply 1.7 million households. Millions of California lives and jobs depend upon State Water Project deliveries, including nearly 7 million people from 1,500+ disadvantaged communities across the state.

A decline in water reliability would have serious consequences for CVWD, threatening the stability of our local groundwater basin, which serves as the primary water source for nearly 270,000 residents. It would hinder CVWD'S ability to support essential services, limit agricultural productivity, and slow economic growth in a region already facing extreme climate conditions. Reduced water deliveries from the State Water Project would force increased reliance on dwindling supplies (including local supplies and the Colorado River), raising costs for customers and straining infrastructure. For a desert community with limited natural water resources serving disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, reliability isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.

The Delta Conveyance Project proposes to modernize the State Water Project by enhancing its ability to capture and move more water in times of high flows in the watershed and convey that water to surface reservoirs and groundwater basins, improving California's drought resilience. But its review and approval process has been hampered by red tape and delays, costing Californians hundreds of millions of dollars and hindering the state's ability to address its water supply reliability challenges.

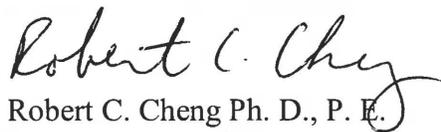
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The legislation proposed by Governor Newsom would expedite review of the Delta Conveyance Project which would result in lowered costs, fewer delays, and more certainty so that our local water agencies can make decisions about funding the construction of this project.

We can no longer afford unnecessary delays. We must not get distracted in either/or thinking because it is possible to protect all our valuable resources.

For these reasons, **we urge you to support the Delta Conveyance Trailer Bill**. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Cheng Ph. D., P. E.  
Assistant General Manager

cc: Members, Senate Budget Sub Committee #2  
Members, Assembly Budget Sub Committee #4  
Senator Limon, Chair, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee  
Assemblymember Papan, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
Joanne Roy, Consultant, Senate Budget Committee  
Christine Miyashiro, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Emylie Reeb, Senate Republican Consultant  
Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Consultant  
Christine Aurre, Office of the Governor