

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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DATE : OCTOBER 10, 2018
FROM: SAMUEL MARTINEZ, Executive Officer 
TO: LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #10 – Request for Letter of Support for the California WaterFix

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Direct staff to draft a support letter for the California WaterFix, consistent with the “proposed statement” recommended by Mr. Wilson from the Southern California Water Coalition; and,
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter and direct staff to forward to the Governor and other stakeholders.

BACKGROUND:

At the August 13, 2018 meeting for the Southern Region Local Agency Formation Commissions, a representative from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California made a presentation on the California WaterFix.

The California WaterFix is an upgrade to California’s 50-year-old water infrastructure that will make it easier to move water in an environmentally friendly manner. The current system is outdated and unreliable, and dependent on levees that put our clean water supply at risk from earthquakes and rising sea levels. It will provide reliable, clean and secure water to almost 27 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland. California WaterFix will improve environmental conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It will also reduce the harmful impacts of the existing infrastructure by moving the system away from endangered fish habitats and reinstate more natural river flows in the Delta.

Mr. Charley Wilson, a special districts representative from Orange LAFCO who also is the Executive Director and CEO of the Southern California Water Coalition (a nonprofit,

nonpartisan organization dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs) was in attendance at the Southern Region LAFCOs meeting and requested that all Southern California LAFCOs sign a support letter for the California WaterFix. Mr. Wilson stated that having a long-term, reliable water supply is critical to the work that LAFCOs perform.

Mr. Wilson followed up with an e-mail to the Executive Officer requesting that San Bernardino LAFCO take a position in support of the California WaterFix (see attached email and letter from Mr. Wilson), which includes a proposed statement to be used for the support letter regarding the California WaterFix.

CONCLUSION:

The California WaterFix is a long-overdue infrastructure upgrade that will maintain a reliable water supply for almost 27 million Californians while also protecting the Delta ecosystem. This includes having a reliable supply of supplemental water for the residents of San Bernardino County. Therefore, staff is recommending that the Commission direct staff to draft a support letter for the California WaterFix and for the Chair to sign the letter for distribution.

Attachments:

1. [Update on California WaterFix](#)
2. [Email and Letter from Southern California Water Coalition Executive Director Charley Wilson](#)