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March 13, 2012

The Honorable Fran Pavley, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Pavley:

Subject: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, March 13 Informational
Hearing on the Delta Plan and Bay-Delta Conservation Plan

On behalf of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on the ongoing critical efforts to complete the Delta Plan and Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

LADWP is the largest municipal utility in the nation and is committed to delivering safe and reliable water to over 600,000 customers. On average, 52 percent of LADWP's water supply is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which is a State Water Project contractor. As such, the City of Los Angeles (City) has a vested interest in the timely achievement of the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

The historic 2009 Legislative Delta Package provided a balanced policy approach toward the challenges in the Delta. The City supported the package with the understanding that it would provide for timely implementation of Delta conveyance improvements and appropriate early actions to secure export-water quality, sustainability and reliability, while sustaining the Delta's ecosystem and the needs of its local communities.

LADWP has provided comments to the Delta Stewardship Council on both the Fifth Draft Delta Plan and the Delta Plan Draft Program Environmental Impact Report. At this point in time, LADWP continues to be concerned that the Delta Plan does not clearly and unambiguously support the recovery of water supplies lost due to Delta regulatory restrictions and appears to propose additional, unnecessary and time-consuming review for each action under the BDCP.

Water and Power Conservation ... a way of life

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LADWP also supports the comments provided by MWD in their letter to the Delta Stewardship Council on the Fifth Draft Delta Plan.

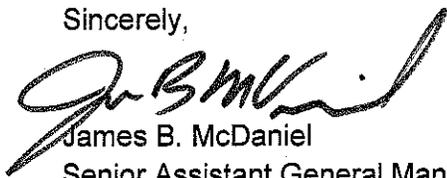
The City continues to support the BDCP as the best opportunity to resolve the ongoing challenges in the Delta. In order to do so, the BDCP is dealing with how water moves through and is diverted from the Delta, the restoration of physical habitat in the Delta, and the other stressors that are having negative effects on the fisheries including water quality, invasive species, illegal fishing, and predator control.

Reaching that resolution is of the utmost importance to the City and LADWP to ensure the long-term reliability and improve the quality of the State Water Project supply. Like numerous other local water agencies across the State, LADWP is committed to continued and significant investments to develop local and sustainable water supplies through water recycling, groundwater cleanup and replenishment, stormwater capture, and conservation. However, a high-quality water supply from the Delta will continue to play an important role in LADWP's water supply management strategies.

As such, the City remains committed to paying its fair share for conveyance improvements and associated mitigation activities in the Delta identified through the BDCP process following a "beneficiary pays" approach.

The City and LADWP thank the Committee for its focus on these important issues, and we look forward to working with you and other stakeholders toward achievement of the co-equal goals. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David R. Pettijohn, Manager of Water Resources, at (213) 367-0899.

Sincerely,



James B. McDaniel

Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System

DRP/KO: ms

c: The Honorable Doug LaMalfa, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water

Mr. Dennis O'Connor, Principal Committee Consultant