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Chief Executive Officer
Brenna Butler Garcia

October 28, 2015

BDCP/WaterFix Comments
P.O. Box 1919,
Sacramento, CA 95812
BDCPComments@icfi.com

RE: **Oppose the Delta Tunnels/California Water Fix (Alternative 4A)**

On behalf of the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SJCHCC), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Delta Tunnels/ California Water Fix (Alternative 4A). SJCHCC was formed in 1972 and remains the largest Hispanic business organization in San Joaquin County and a founding charter of both the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of SJCHCC is to create, promote and enhance business and to provide legislative leadership for our membership and constituency.

In addition to our direct membership, SJCHCC represents over 7,000 Hispanic-owned businesses within the county, many of which are small or disadvantaged, and depend on accessibility to good quality water from the Delta not only for their quality of life but to sustain their livelihood through the economic and industrial eco-systems the Delta currently provides. County-wide, Latinos represent over 40% of the population and heavily employed in the major areas of industry directly impacted by the Alternative 4A proposal including agriculture, transportation and recreation.

The San Joaquin County economy is directly tied to the Delta as a water source for its major industries including agriculture which has direct impacts to the warehousing, distribution and processing of agricultural products in our region. Metropolitan business will also feel the adverse impacts of the plan as they rely on the Delta and agricultural industry to drive construction, retail and tourism. Salinity intrusion is already impacting the western Delta farms and removing Sacramento River freshwater from the system will make matters worse. Delta farmers cannot irrigate crops with salt water and they certainly cannot plant crops in contaminated soils. The Delta Ag economy, which consists of generations of family farms and farm workers, generates \$5.2 billion for the California economy, annually.

The Delta tunnels will result in a water supply that will become unusable by most industries and adversely, local utilities (which represent yet another major employment source for residents of the San Joaquin region) will be unable to discharge wastewater in accordance with current Federal law. The outcome will undoubtedly be higher water bills for residents and businesses in one of the most economically challenged regions in the State. Future growth will be stunted by a lack of supply of clean water and the impacts from construction of the 14 month project do not account for adequate mitigation funding to rebuild our communities or agricultural industries.

The Delta has problems that need to be addressed, but the CA Water Fix tunnels won't fix them. It won't produce more water, more reliable supplies, or improved conditions for the environment in the Delta. The new EIR/EIS has not adequately addressed our above stated concerns. This is why we strongly oppose the Delta Tunnels/California Water Fix (Alternative 4A). Reclamation and DWR should prepare and circulate a new Draft EIR/EIS that will include alternatives that reduce water exports and increase Delta flows for consideration by the public and decision-makers. Such alternatives have a far better chance of complying with the Delta Reform Act and the federal Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts. If approved, our region will suffer the most significantly adverse economic and environmental impacts of the project of which the effects will devastate San Joaquin County.

Sincerely,

Brenna Butler Garcia
CEO