



News Release
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**Board Supports Advancement of Delta Conveyance Project
To Develop Sustainable, Long-Term Imported Water Supply
*Resolution Supports Participation in and Funding for Environmental Planning Process***

November 18, 2020; Azusa, California – The Board of Directors of the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District voted unanimously at its November 16, 2020 board meeting to approve a resolution authorizing participation in and funding for planning costs associated with the *Delta Conveyance Project* which has been initiated by the California Department of Water Resources. The timing of the District's commitment is similar to other State Water Contractors, and would help fund preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), regulatory processes and permitting, and design work to inform the environmental planning portion of the proposed Project.

The District, which is one of 29 State Water Contractors, possesses a long-term water supply contract with the Department of Water Resources for approximately 28,800 acre-feet of water per year imported via the State Water Project (SWP). The District's allocation of imported water from the State Water Project fluctuates annually based on Delta conditions, reservoir levels, rainfall and snow pack. Thus, the amount of imported water the District is able to deliver each year to its member cities and the Main San Gabriel Basin remains unpredictable. The Main San Gabriel Basin and the District's member cities depend on imported water to meet demand as local groundwater supplies only provide about 80% of the water we use locally.

"Devastating supply interruptions from the State Water Project become more likely every day we don't take action to strengthen and stabilize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," stated Thomas Wong, Board President. "The sustainability of our long-term imported water supplies depends on meaningful investments by all those who rely on and benefit from the State Water Project," Wong added. General Manager Darin Kasamoto commented, "We need the reliability the *Delta Conveyance Project* will create at the State level, coupled with smart management, effective partnerships and water conservation at the local level to meet the needs of our member cities."

Per the Resolution adopted by the Board (attached), the District's funding commitment would be at .79% of the State Water Project's overall \$339 million project planning cost, which amounts to \$2,678,173, paid over a four-year period, and the District would also authorize an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority. The Amendment will provide greater representation on the JPA board for southern contractors. The Board noted that this funding commitment is not an amendment to its SWP water supply contract with DWR, and that consideration of a contract amendment will take place after all environmental review is complete and contract language is drafted.

The *Delta Conveyance Project* will address a range of immediate and future challenges facing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta eco-system, the fragile hub of the State Water Project, which conveys water from northern California to replenish groundwater supplies in the Main San Gabriel Basin, as well as providing water for drinking, agriculture and other residential, business

and government uses in central and southern California. The Delta eco-system is threatened by non-native species, pollution, salt water intrusion and a levee system vulnerable to subsidence, flooding, earthquakes, rising seas and other climate change impacts.

The objective of the Project is to restore and protect the State's ability to deliver State Water Project water supply through greater climate resiliency, seismic resiliency, water supply reliability and operational resiliency. The Project has evolved from several earlier configurations such that proposed facilities for the Project now include one tunnel beneath the Delta with capacity of 6,000 cfs, two intakes at 3,000 cfs each, 42 miles of tunnel and associate shafts, and Southern Complex facilities such as a pump station, forebay and connections to the existing California Aqueduct. The preliminary Project schedule has a final EIR being completed in 2023 and other environmental processes being completed in 2024. Pending all necessary approvals and permits, as well as compliance with all legal requirements, construction could begin.

About the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

The mission of the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District is to provide reliable supplemental water for the communities of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner.

The District was formed in 1959 after winning approval from the voters of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park, and Sierra Madre. In anticipation of its long-term water needs, the District entered into a contract with the State of California Department of Water Resources in 1962 for the import of 25,000 acre-feet of water per year (now 28,800 acre-feet per year) from the State Water Project to supplement local water supplies in the San Gabriel Valley. The District is one of 29 State Water Contractors who obtain water from the State Water Project. The District operates the 38-mile Devil Canyon-Azusa pipeline which connects to the State Water Project, as well as several other facilities including a hydroelectric plant. The District also provides extensive public education and water conservation services throughout its service area.

The Board of Directors meets regularly the second Monday of each month at 8 a.m. at District headquarters in Azusa. For more information please visit our website: www.sgvmd.org.