



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON
SEP 30 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I write to you concerning the water challenges facing the State of California, and specifically the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. I know you are well aware of the critical importance of the Bay Delta, both as an ecosystem and as the critical crossroads of the conveyance system that delivers water from Northern California to agricultural and urban water users south of the Delta. Achieving the coequal goals of providing for a high quality, reliable, and sustainable long-term water supply for California and restoring the environmental integrity and sustainability of the Bay Delta ecosystem is both necessary and extremely complex.

I want to underscore that the Department of the Interior, and other Federal agencies, are turning the page after eight years of Federal inaction and are committed to do our part to work with the State and other stakeholders to solve the problems surrounding the Bay Delta. In furtherance of that commitment, we are looking forward to our second joint Federal-State public meeting on California water challenges September 30, 2009, at the Department of the Interior to discuss recent actions regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). We are moving closer to a solution that benefits all Californians.

I appreciate that you have devoted a great deal of energy to devising solutions to the State's water crisis. The Delta Vision, produced by the Blue Ribbon Task Force, represents a great step forward that will serve as a foundation for all future progress in the Bay Delta. I am also very encouraged by the introduction of legislation in Sacramento addressing the following key components of a Bay Delta solution:

- A Delta governance structure;
- A Delta plan addressing needs for storage, conveyance and other necessary operational tools, as well as the BDCP;
- Water conservation/sustainable management provisions;
- Water use reporting requirements; and
- A Delta conservancy.

Given the urgent need for this legislation, I strongly encourage you to call a special legislative session this fall to ensure prompt enactment of a package of bills addressing these issues. Passage of these bills is critical to solving the State's water problems. A water solution for the State requires actions by both the State and the Federal governments. Together the State and Federal governments can assist each other in developing the solution to California's water problems that its citizens deserve and require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Salazar



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

SEP 30 2009

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President pro Tempore
The State Senate of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Steinberg:

I write to you concerning the legislation currently pending before you addressing the water challenges facing the State of California, and specifically the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. I know you are well aware of the critical importance of the Bay Delta, both as an ecosystem and as the critical crossroads of the conveyance system that delivers water from Northern California to agricultural and urban water users south of the Delta. Achieving the coequal goals of providing for a high quality, reliable and sustainable long-term water supply for California and restoring the environmental integrity and sustainability of the Bay Delta ecosystem is both necessary and extremely complex.

I applaud your commitment to passing a comprehensive package of water bills that will address Delta governance, a Delta plan addressing needs for storage, conveyance, and other operational tools as well as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), a Delta conservancy, and water conservation. I know you have invested a tremendous amount of work on these bills, and I encourage you to continue pressing for a special legislative session so that these bills can be enacted before the end of this year. The urgency of the State's water problems does not permit further delay.

I want to underscore that the Department of the Interior, and other Federal agencies, are turning the page after 8 years of Federal inaction and are committed to doing our part to work with the State and other stakeholders to solve the problems surrounding the Bay Delta. In furtherance of that commitment, we are looking forward to our second joint Federal-State public meeting on California water challenges on September 30, 2009, at the Department of the Interior to discuss recent actions regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. We are moving closer to a solution that benefits all Californians.

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Sincerely,

Ken Salazar



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

SEP 30 2009

The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker of the Assembly
The California State Assembly
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Speaker Bass:

I write to you concerning the legislation currently pending before you addressing the water challenges facing the State of California, and specifically the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. I know you are well aware of the critical importance of the Bay Delta, both as an ecosystem and as the critical crossroads of the conveyance system that delivers water from Northern California to agricultural and urban water users south of the Delta. Achieving the coequal goals of providing for a high quality, reliable and sustainable long-term water supply for California and restoring the environmental integrity and sustainability of the Bay Delta ecosystem is both necessary and extremely complex.

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Ken Salazar