

OCTOBER 14, 2013
VIA EMAIL



**Mar Vista
Community Council**

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Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

To: The Honorable Mike Bonin, Councilmember, 11th District City of Los Angeles mike.bonin@lacity.org
The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember, 5th District, City of Los Angeles paul.koretz@lacity.org

Cc: Len Nguyen, Field Deputy, CD11 len.nguyen@lacity.org
Andy Schrader, Deputy of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability CD 5 andy.shrader@lacity.org

Re: BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/RATEPAYER ADVOCATE

Dear Councilmembers:

At the regularly scheduled meeting held October 8, 2013, The Mar Vista Community Council approved the following policy motion by a unanimous vote:

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Accountability (OPA) is a Los Angeles City department established by voter-approved Charter Amendment I (adopted March 8, 2011) in order to shed greater light on the Department of Water & Power's (DWP) operations and finances and to serve as an independent watchdog, charged with analyzing proposed increases in water and power rates on a timely and continuous basis; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), the hub of California's water supply, is facing major challenges, including aging levees, seismic instability, increased urbanization, ecosystem degradation, a lack of fresh water, and a reduced and inconsistent annual snowpack and potential sea-level rise and flooding resulting from the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles purchases, on average, 50% of its water supply from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD); 90% of the City's MWD water is from the Delta via the State Water Project (SWP); and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) includes building at a cost of tens of billions of dollars, two 35-mile tunnels to divert a portion of the Sacramento River in a stated attempt to achieve a reliable water supply for California and a healthy Delta ecosystem. The City's ratepayers would be expected to contribute substantially to pay for the BDCP; and

WHEREAS, the DWP has previously announced a policy of purchasing less imported water and pursuing lower cost options of increasing the City's local water supply -- its Urban Water Management Plan includes taking the local water supply from 10% to 37% by 2035. These options include greater conservation, wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, grey water systems, new building and fixture standards, aquifer cleanup and infrastructure repair and maintenance. As the production of "local water" by the City will benefit the entire state, the costs should not fall exclusively upon the Los Angeles ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, in early August, 2013, the Brown Administration released a draft statewide economic report of costs and benefits of the BDCP. The Public Draft Plan of the BDCP is scheduled to be released in October. As of August 25, 2013, the City's Ratepayer Advocate has not yet released a report detailing the BDCP's impact upon the City's ratepayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by adoption of this resolution, the Mar Vista Community Council respectfully requests that the Ratepayer Advocate provide an independent, peer-reviewed, cost-benefit analysis of the impact of the BDCP to Mar Vista ratepayers, including an analysis of the externalities -- environmental or otherwise, including the expansion of the local job market when building a local water supply -- involved in the BDCP, contrast these costs per acre foot with other sources of water, including efficiency-demand management, recycled water, stormwater capture and desalination; and publicly submit this analysis to the Mar Vista Community Council, the other Neighborhood Councils and the Los Angeles City Council for their consideration and comment before the BDCP moves forward.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the matter,

Sharon Commins, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council
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