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EAST BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY  
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Honorable Denise Ducheny  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable John Laird  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth  
Vice-Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Roger Niello  
Vice-Chair, Assembly Budget Comm.  
State Capitol, Room 6017  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Legislators:

As representatives of the business and residential communities served by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), we are pleased to see the Legislature taking action to secure the State's water supplies in the face of challenging circumstances. The State has recognized the central importance of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in providing ecosystem and export water supply benefits through the Delta Vision process. In the midst so many urgent issues in the Delta, EBMUD's Mokelumne Aqueducts have typically been overlooked as an essential element of the public infrastructure located in the Delta. These aqueducts provide 90% of the municipal and industrial water supply to 1.3 million people in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, including water for critical health and safety purposes such as supplying hospitals and fire protection. EBMUD's aqueducts are a critical part of the infrastructure that sustains the economy of the Bay Area.

EBMUD's aqueducts cross five Delta islands that are below sea level, protected by 51 miles of earthen levees that must continuously hold back the Delta waters. As we saw in the June 2004 rupture of the levee on Upper Jones Tract -- which these aqueducts cross -- these levees could fail at any time. In fact, levees in the Delta have been breached approximately 160 times over the last century. The threat of more levee failures, potentially on a systemwide scale similar to the Katrina-New Orleans event, is increasing over time due to island subsidence, sea level rise, intensified flood events, and seismic faults in and near the Delta. Scientists estimate a two-in-three chance of a major quake in the Delta during the next 50 years, potentially leading to permanent changes in the landscape of the Delta.

The Bay Area's economy depends on the water that is delivered through the aqueducts, and any failure of the levees puts that economy at risk. If the EBMUD aqueducts were disabled, severe rationing would have to be imposed on its customers. Moreover, the economic impacts of this outage would be tremendous and extend far beyond the Bay Area. The best near-term protection against this threat is increased investment in the levees that protect the aqueducts. EBMUD is currently investing \$1.5 million annually to help reclamation districts maintain and improve these levees, but more work is needed and the pace of improvement must be accelerated. We acknowledge and support the use of EBMUD's local ratepayer funds in securing the Delta levees, but we are now requesting that the Legislature recognize the statewide importance of the infrastructure protected by these levees, and provide bond funding for vital improvements.

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Propositions 1E (\$4B) and 84 (\$5.4B) were passed in 2006 by the voters who recognized the State's interest in improving flood control for human health and safety and to protect the economy. These funds are the latest installment in the State's long record of financial support for protecting and maintaining Delta levees. Funds from these bond measures should be appropriated and projects expedited to protect vital infrastructure without delay. We would like to provide the following recommendations on investing Prop 1E and 84 bond funds for the protection of levees in the Delta and related activities

The levees protecting EBMUD's aqueducts need \$120 million in investments to meet Army Corps standards for agricultural levees. These improvements will also provide benefits to other assets including vital transportation infrastructure (Highway 4, the BNSF rail line, shipping routes) electricity, oil and gas lines, and water export conveyance channels.

In addition to levee improvement funding, \$10 million is needed to interconnect the aqueducts at both ends of the Delta crossing, which would provide redundancy and facilitate emergency response in the event of a levee failure. EBMUD has invested over \$240 million in a system wide seismic retrofit program, and a major component of this consisted of improvements to the largest of their three aqueduct pipelines to withstand a major quake. The new interconnections are critical emergency preparedness actions that are consistent with other emergency response measures being planned to address levee failures.

As you consider the recommendations of the Delta Vision process and make decisions affecting the future of the Delta, EBMUD's aqueducts and the levee system protecting them should receive recognition as worthy of State investment along with the export projects and other critical public assets. Failure to promptly appropriate the available funds to protect this vital infrastructure places both the Bay Area's and the State's economy at significant risk. Thank you for your attention to these critical funding needs.

Sincerely,

Linda Best, President

cc: Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor, State of California  
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency  
Karen Scarborough, Undersecretary, California Resources Agency  
Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources  
Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority  
Phil Isenberg, Chair, Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force  
Members of the Senate Budget Committee  
Members of the Assembly Budget Committee  
Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Chair,  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Honorable Bob Margett, Vice-Chair,  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee



Honorable Lois Wolk, Chair,  
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Honorable Bill Maze, Vice-Chair,  
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Honorable Ellen Corbett  
Honorable President pro Tem Don Perata  
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Honorable Mary Hayashi  
Honorable Guy Houston  
Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
Honorable Alberto Torrico  
Honorable Speaker Fabian Nunez  
Lesla R. McIntosh, President, Board of Directors,  
East Bay Municipal Utility District