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San Francisco 49ers
Established in 1978 by
David Packard

Clerk of the Board
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, California 95118

Apr 30, 2018

Re: Business Support for California WaterFix

Dear Chair Santos, Vice Chair LeZotte, and Santa Clara Valley Water District Directors,

In a historic decision earlier this month, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Met) voted to take a majority stake in the \$16.7 billion twin-tunnels WaterFix project, a plan championed by Governor Jerry Brown as a way of protecting the water supply for more than 25 million Californians, including millions of South Bay residents.

In October of last year you voted to participate in a lower cost, scaled down project, which made sense, given the fiscal realities of the time, including the lack of participation from Westlands and other water wholesalers. However, given Met's recent decision, we urge you to reconsider supporting the twin tunnel project. A full-scale project will give managers more flexibility in operating the tunnels, allow for greater diversions during years of high flows and help sustain Delta deliveries. In addition, as the report from your staff points out, a 9,000 cfs project would provide for greater water quality improvements and resiliency against earthquakes and climate change.

California is the sixth largest economy in the world, and Silicon Valley is a primary driver of our state's job creation and growth. Yet our success, the envy of much of the world, is at risk unless we move to protect our water supply. As business and civic leaders in the South Bay, we cannot stress enough the need to secure safe, clean, affordable drinking water for the health and economic well being of our region. The Silicon Valley Leadership Group supports WaterFix and we respectfully request that you do so as well.

As you know, California WaterFix is the plan to update aging infrastructure that brings clean, reliable water to our communities from the Sierra Nevada Mountains through the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta. Nearly half of the water that serves 2 million people here in the region, including 200,000 daily commuters, comes from the Delta, and a quarter of that is used for groundwater recharge. This high quality water is also used to improve the quality of other local and imported water supplies, increasing the amount of safe drinking water available for communities throughout the region.

This fresh water is at risk of contamination from salt water due to rising sea levels associated with climate change, as well as an earthquake, which would easily liquefy the existing earthen levees in the Delta. WaterFix provides a solution – in fact, the only viable and detailed solution – to address these risks and shore up the water supply we, and most Californians, rely on. We applaud the Water District for its work to double down on water recycling and conservation. But even this, we believe, will not be

sufficient to meet the region's future needs without WaterFix to help secure a baseline level of high quality water.

While others may push back on the plan, we urge you to focus on the fact that there is no other practicable, comprehensive and economically viable plan to supply the volume of water our region needs. While we support investing in local water supply projects, we believe the Delta will continue – for quite some time – to be an important source of water for our region.

As community leaders we are also very conscious of the fact that access to safe, affordable drinking water is a social justice issue. It is important to us that our communities continue to have access to affordable water that they need to thrive. While we respect the fact that WaterFix is not inexpensive, we believe it is important to invest in the continued security and economic vitality of our region. And what could be more vital than water?

As with any large public works project, we understand that there are concerns about potential cost overruns. However, we believe the cost of doing nothing is far costlier to the businesses, people and the environment. And, as you know, the project is among the most affordable sources of water for our region.

We also understand there are concerns about the environmental health of the Delta. WaterFix, with its advanced fish screens and its science-based design, makes use of the best current technology to help protect vulnerable fish populations in the Delta. By moving the points of water diversions, and utilizing advanced screens to protect vulnerable species, the project will help restore more natural river flows and benefit fish. Furthermore, as staff points out in their report to you, the full 9,000 cfs project would have greater environmental benefits.

Businesses have made this region their home, bringing innovation and jobs, but the sustained growth and economic success of the region — the envy of the world — will be cut short without a major investment in our water infrastructure. We believe that in order to protect our economy and way of life, we need to invest in new water infrastructure, just as we did in the 1960s.

We believe that WaterFix is what's needed to secure our future and we respectfully request that you support the project as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff lead, Mike Mielke, Sr. Vice President of Environment & Energy at 408-501-7858 or mmielke@svlg.org.

We deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carl Guardino
President & CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Silicon Valley Leadership Group Members Agree: WaterFix is Critical to Secure the Water We Need

Dan Gordon
COO
Gordon Biersch
Brewing



Hannah Gordon
General Counsel
San Francisco 49ers



Jenny Dearborn
CLO
SAP



Bob Kieve
President
Empire Broadcasting
Corp



Kari Saragusa
Senior Advisor
Lehigh Hanson



Aart de Geus
Founder & CEO
Synopsis



Kevin Murai
President & CEO
Synnex Corp



Dawnet Beverley
SVP & Managing Director
Donnelley Financial



Raul Vazquez
CEO
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Mark Adams
CEO
Lumileds



Suresh Babu
Tiquant Inc.



Paul F. Gentzkow
President & CEO
Robert Half
Robert Half



Michael R. Van Every
President & CEO
Republic Urban Properties
REPUBLIC URBAN PROPERTIES LLC
WEST COAST DIVISION

Guy Gecht
CEO
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Jerry Mix
President
Finelite
FINELITE
Better Lighting

Tom Kemp
Co-Founder & CEO
Centrify



Matt Mahan
CEO
Brigade Media
BRIGADE



Chris Metzger
SVP / Division Manager
Mott MacDonald



Andy Coan
President & CEO
Splice



Manish Tandon
CEO
CSS Corp



Russell Spektor
Executive Vice
President
Direct Resource
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Andy Pierce
President
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Rami Rahim
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Rob Steinberg
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Tom Hayse
President & CEO
ETM Electromatic Inc.



Lou Ramondetta
President
Surplus Service
Surplus Service



Ty Walrod
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Celeste Volz Ford
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Stellar Solutions, Inc.



Zachary F. Bookman
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Jordan Epstein
CEO
Stroll Health



Sonu Ratra
President
Akraya
AKRAYA
Trusted Talent



Chris Larsen
Executive Chairman
Ripple
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Carl Guardino
President & CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership
Group
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LEADERSHIP GROUP



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Founder & CEO
SmileyGo Corp.
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