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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](mailto: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**  
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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**  
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**Jerry Mix**  
President  
Finelite  
**FINELITE**  
Better Lighting

**Tom Kemp**  
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**Matt Mahan**  
CEO  
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BRIGADE



**Chris Metzger**  
SVP / Division Manager  
Mott MacDonald



**Andy Coan**  
President & CEO  
Splice



**Manish Tandon**  
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CSS Corp



**Russell Spektor**  
Executive Vice  
President  
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**Lou Ramondetta**  
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**Ned Finkle**  
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**William Hadaya**  
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**Jordan Epstein**  
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**Sonu Ratra**  
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**Carl Guardino**  
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