



08/13/19  
Item 3.2-C  
HANDOUT

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

August 13, 2019

**Re: Business Support for Delta Conveyance Project**

Dear Chair LeZotte, Vice Chair Hsueh, and Valley Water Board Directors,

I write to you on behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's over 340 member companies, who collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley and contribute more than \$3 trillion to the global economy. The Leadership Group supports the new single-tunnel Delta Conveyance Project approach advanced by California Governor Gavin Newsom, and respectfully requests that you consider doing so, as well.

Silicon Valley is a primary driver of job creation and growth in California—the sixth-largest economy in the world. However, our success—the envy of much of the world—is at risk unless we move to protect our water supply. In order to protect our economy and way of life, California needs to invest in new water infrastructure, just as we did in the 1960s.

Thank you for your past leadership and support to engage Valley Water in statewide discussions and policymaking about one of our most precious natural resources. In October 2017, you approved a thoughtful and comprehensive set of Guiding Principles for participation in the California WaterFix project championed by former Governor Jerry Brown. The following spring, you voted to move forward with participating in WaterFix, which would protect the water supply for more than 25 million Californians, including millions of South Bay residents.

Supply reliability must remain a priority in the development of a lower cost, scaled-down Delta Conveyance Project, as proposed by the Newsom administration. By 2040, our region expects a shortfall of nearly 40,000 acre-feet of water in average years and well over 100,000 acre-feet in drought years. The Delta Conveyance Project would help bridge that shortfall. We also urgently need to provide for greater water quality improvements and resilience against earthquakes and climate change impacts—particularly sea level rise.

As business and civic leaders in the South Bay, we cannot stress enough the need to secure safe, clean and affordable drinking water for the health and economic well-being of our region. We urge you to focus on the fact that there is no other practicable, comprehensive and economically viable way—besides the Delta Conveyance Project—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.

Businesses have made Silicon Valley 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 the Delta Conveyance Project helps our communities acquire what's needed as water supplies to secure our future.

Therefore, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's members respectfully request that you vote to allow your staff to move forward with participation in this new Delta project—in order to secure the water our region needs to continue to thrive. It is important to us that our communities continue to have access to affordable water that they need to thrive. As community leaders we understand that access to safe, affordable drinking water is a social justice issue. What could be more vital than water?

The Leadership Group believes that the Delta Conveyance Project can secure our future, and so we respectfully request that you engage in the project, as well. The cost to businesses, people and the environment of doing nothing is far greater than the cost of constructing a tunnel. Indeed, the Delta serves as one of the most affordable sources of water for our region.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 408-501-7858 or [mmielke@svlg.org](mailto:mmielke@svlg.org). We deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Mielke".

Mike Mielke  
SVP, Environment & Energy  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group