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## **VENTURA COUNTY LABOR, BUSINESS, WATER AGENCIES, TAXPAYER & LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUPS SUPPORT CALIFORNIA WATERFIX**

*Local leaders traveled to Sacramento to testify in support of plan that is vital to protect water source for 75% of Ventura County's residents*

**SACRAMENTO** – Today, Californians for Water Security announced more than a dozen Ventura County organizations are part of the broad coalition supporting the California WaterFix, the plan to repair the state's aging water infrastructure and protect the clean water that flows from the Sierra Nevada mountains through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to 25 million Californians, including more than 635,000 residents in Ventura County. And these groups join an even larger Ventura County support base for the project, which now includes 32 organizations and agencies.

"More than 75% of the population of Ventura County relies on supplies from the State Water Project, and this percentage could increase to virtually 100% as adjacent communities struggling with extreme drought conditions may begin to take their state water allocations for the first time in history," said **Susan Mulligan, general manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District**. "Without the California WaterFix in place to more reliably transport our water, our local water supply is hanging in the balance daily, and could be easily jeopardized by a natural disaster."

"Every day we operate without the WaterFix, we're losing the opportunity to efficiently move water during rainy seasons into storage for use during drought or following natural disasters such as earthquakes," **Mulligan added**. "2016 is a prime example of this failing. Current storage in San Luis Reservoir, a primary water storage facility for central and southern California, is near a historic low at 11% full. Other southland reservoirs are also well below normal levels. With Northern California precipitation at 120% of average in 2016, this is unacceptable. Simply put, 25 million Californians deserve better."

The inadequacy of California's primary water distribution system is highlighted by numbers recently released by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that show how much water could have been collected in last winter's heavy rainfall from El Niño, but could not be delivered to California residents, businesses, and farms due to California's outdated water infrastructure.

As a result, 486,000 total acre-feet of water in 2016 was not captured and stored. This equals **158 billion gallons of water**, which could serve approximately **3.6 million Californians for one full year**.

Recently, several local leaders traveled to Sacramento to testify before the State Water Resources Control Board to urge the agency to support the plan.

"Ventura County has been a leader in conservation and in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan process," said **Lynn Jensen, of the Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business**. "Imported water is needed for our cities, treated by our wastewater facilities, released to our creeks, and is truly a lynchpin that makes other local water development efforts succeed, supporting our economy."

"Our water supplies are continually strained due to a multi-year drought, pumping restrictions, climate change and an ever growing population," **said David Grau, Board Chairman, Ventura County Taxpayers Association**. "This mid 20th-century project was not built to meet these many challenges. We believe the California WaterFix best serves taxpayers' interests by updating our infrastructure to secure reliable water supplies at an affordable rate."

Local Ventura County members of Californians for Water Security that support the WaterFix include:

1. Ventura County Taxpayers Association
2. Ventura County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
3. Camarillo Democratic Club
4. Moorpark Democratic Club
5. Ventura County Economic Development Association
6. Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County
7. Calleguas Municipal Water District
8. Camarillo Chamber of Commerce
9. Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties
10. Greater Conjeo Valley Chamber of Commerce
11. Hueneme Chamber of Commerce
12. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 952

13. Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
14. Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
15. Tri Counties Building & Construction Trades Council
16. United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 484

### **About Californians for Water Security**

CWS is a growing coalition of more than 12,000 California citizens and more than 175 organizations representing business leaders, labor, family farmers, local governments, water experts, environmentalists, public safety officials, infrastructure groups, taxpayer associations, and others who support the plan to fix California's broken water distribution system. The Governor's plan was drafted after nearly a decade of scientific review and analysis by leading water experts and conservationists and has received input from leading scientists and engineers. The coalition is waging an active advertising, grassroots lobbying, social media and public advocacy campaign to support this important project to fix our aging water distribution infrastructure and improve water reliability and security throughout the state.

**For more information on Californians for Water Security, visit:**

[www.watersecurityca.com](http://www.watersecurityca.com)

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