



July 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

The Leadership Council of California Forward is proud to endorse the 10 Points of Agreement developed by the Water Fix Coalition, a diverse group of stakeholders seeking common ground on a comprehensive solution for California's chronic water challenges made acute by the current drought.

CA Fwd is dedicated to helping the state's complex governance system deliver better results, with more transparency, enabling greater accountability to voters. California's management of water resources is an iconic example of how public money must be better spent to meet critical public needs. CA Fwd has been making that case with its partners in the California Economic Summit, a statewide group of civic leaders who recommended ways to fashion drought responses so they yield sustainable solutions – proposals consistent with the Water Fix Coalition's Points of Agreement.

Built decades ago to serve a population only half as large as California has today, the state's deeply interconnected network of water infrastructure is managed by hundreds of independent water managers within a complex set of laws and regulations governing water rights, environmental protection and restoration, flood management, and water quality.

In many ways, the state's water infrastructure—from the state and federal water projects to thousands of local water systems—remains an engineering marvel, providing water to a state of 38 million people and serving as the foundation of the eighth largest economy in the world.

As the drought has made abundantly clear, it also is a system in desperate need of new and smarter investment—and of more comprehensive, integrated governance.

Californians spend \$30 billion each year on water, most of it at the regional and local level, but the dizzying array of local, state, and federal bodies overseeing this vast water system are not effectively coordinating their efforts to manage surface and groundwater storage, conveyance and habitat restoration. In contrast to the state's "co-equal goals" of more reliable water supply and a restored Delta ecosystem, the State for decades has lurched from water crisis to water crisis.

The Water Fix Coalition rightly credits the Brown Administration for drafting a Water Action Plan that takes on the looming challenges of our times—including climate change, groundwater overdraft, and a deteriorating Delta. The Coalition also urges the Administration to take this plan "to the next level—to develop a comprehensive 'Water Fix' plan for California, with specific actions, timetables, funding sources, assurances, and accountability provisions."

CA Fwd's Leadership Council agrees that this is the next vital step toward making investments in a water system that can support rural and urban economies and revive critical ecosystems. CA Fwd is heartened to see a broad group of stakeholders, from environmental groups to water managers and

business associations agree on the importance of a comprehensive solution. As CA Fwd has learned from years of working to improve governance, *how* this plan is implemented—and how well these efforts are integrated—will ultimately determine how many problems will be solved.

Only rain and snow can end the drought. But only vision, commitment and discipline can advance the co-equal goals. The Water Fix Coalition has developed a comprehensive and balanced approach to problems long muddied by dueling science and zero sum politics. The Points of Agreement chart the path forward, and a new way to move forward. For both reasons, we enthusiastically support the effort.

Sincerely,



Thomas McKernan
Co-chair, CA Fwd Leadership Council



Lenny Mendonca
Co-chair, CA Fwd Leadership Council

California Water Fix Coalition Points of Agreement

The following are the agreements that form the basis of the Water Fix Coalition's policy and action recommendations.

1. California precipitation, averaged over a long-term period, provides sufficient water to meet reasonable needs for drinking water, ecosystem protection, and economic uses. The problem is that precipitation is highly variable year-to-year and current infrastructure is unable to capture available surpluses in wetter periods to help carry the state through drought.
2. The water resources of the state, including surface and groundwater, need to be managed more efficiently and in a more integrated way to achieve multiple benefits. California's aquatic ecosystems are highly stressed and/or collapsing, in part due to flow alteration, loss of physical habitat, introduction of non-native species, and pollution caused by human activity.
3. All parties want to achieve the co-equal goals, while protecting and enhancing the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.
4. The current water system does not and cannot achieve the co-equal goals because it does not offer the flexibility to store water when it is abundant and move it to where it is needed when it is needed in a way that is consistent with the achievement of the co-equal goals. Improved water management and water use efficiency in all regions is necessary to help balance needs of the Delta.
5. Improved Delta conveyance alone will not address the co-equal goals; a comprehensive plan of integrated actions is required to achieve them.
6. Moving water through the Delta is complex and highly controversial. All of us agree that the status quo on conveyance is not sustainable. Some of us think that Improved Through-Delta Conveyance alone can be the solution. Others of us conclude that Dual Conveyance, which includes both Through-Delta Conveyance and a new isolated component, is necessary. To resolve the longstanding conflicts regarding conveyance, measures to improve through-Delta conveyance and investments in new storage to improve flexibility of water operations and water management should be pursued expeditiously while dual conveyance continues through its decision process.
7. Improved water management and a sustained commitment to continuous improvement in water use efficiency in all regions are necessary to increase system flexibility and reduce conflicts resulting from scarcity.
8. Protection and enhancement of headwaters areas is needed to increase retention, contribute to system flexibility, and adapt to climate change.
9. It is vitally important that the proposed system solution consider the economic interests of every affected region and costs are allocated based on the benefits received, including general public benefits, e.g., environmental enhancement and meeting drinking water needs of disadvantaged communities.
10. Any solution to achieve the co-equal goals must be developed consistent with the public trust, state and federal environmental requirements, water rights, and area of origin protections.