



**WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Suite 210  
Carson, CA 90746

**AGENDA NO. 24**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2010 – Communications**

Gray (Chair), Kwan

**FEBRUARY 22, 2010 – Board Meeting**

Prepared by: E.J. Caldwell

Submitted by: Ron Wildermuth

Approved by: Rich Nagel

## ACTION CALENDAR

### AB 1594 (HUBER) DELTA CONVEYANCE – OPPOSE POSITION

#### SUMMARY:

AB 1594, as introduced by Assemblywoman Alyson Huber (D-El Dorado Hills), is an attempt to reverse a key provision of the historic package of Delta/water management legislation approved by the Legislature in 2009. AB 1594 would require a vote of the Legislature to approve a Delta canal or conveyance facility prior to the commencement of construction. In addition, AB 1594 would require an independent economic analysis of the conveyance proposal by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

As approved by the Legislature in 2009, key provisions of the Delta package provided a framework for integrating the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which is the emerging strategy of water system/ecosystem improvements that will be instrumental to complying with the Endangered Species Act for the foreseeable future. The entire BDCP, including the future conveyance system, will become part of the future Delta Plan if the plan analyzes a variety of conveyance options and meets certain environmental goals, among other requirements. During negotiations on the Delta package, the Legislature chose to avoid using a political process to make a highly technical decision on the size and routing of any new conveyance system, whether it should be a tunnel or canal and where any new intakes or other operational facilities should be located.

As proposed, AB 1594 seeks to institute political, legislative oversight on any needed conveyance. Despite the fact that legislative oversight has little tradition in reviewing, amending and approving freeway or new electricity conveyance alignments; the legislative authority proposed would supersede a collaborative effort of six state and federal wildlife/water agencies. As originally approved by the Legislature, all six agencies are required to approve the final plan, including the yet-to-be-decided conveyance changes. Turning this planning process into a political process endangers the success of the BDCP and places additional, redundant hurdles in the path of achieving the BDCP goals. AB 1594 represents a serious threat to future water reliability for Southern California and to the emerging plan to restore the Delta.

For the reasons stated herein, West Basin Municipal Water District staff recommends an OPPOSE position on AB 1594, regarding Delta conveyance.

#### STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 1: Water Reliability – West Basin is committed to innovative planning and investments to provide water supply reliability and drought protection.

Goal 3: Customer Service – West Basin is committed to providing value by understanding and meeting the needs of our customers and the communities we serve.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on February 12, 2010 and recommended for approval at the February 22, 2010 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board approves an OPPOSE position on AB 1594, regarding Delta Conveyance.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - Draft Opposition Letter

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