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MWA Supports Governor's Downsized Water Conveyance Project

Apple Valley, CA—News that Governor Newsom's administration has begun to implement his directive to downsize the Cal WaterFix from a twin-tunnel water conveyance project to one tunnel, was met with support from officials from the Mojave Water Agency (MWA).

"Water reliability is critical in a desert region said Carl Coleman, MWA President. "We look forward to participating with the Governor and his administration in this project that will result in improved water reliability as our State continues to address a myriad of environmental impacts and climate change."

As a member of the State Water Contractors, MWA has a contract to purchase up to 89,800 acre-feet of water from the State. The Agency purchases varying amounts of water annually to ensure local needs are met, as well help replenish the local groundwater supply.

Coleman, who also served as the first MWA General Manager from 1964 through 1973, said a cross conveyance system was always part of California's water plan.

“Early planning stages for the State Water Project included an underground conveyance system to transport water under or around the Sacramento Delta. This isn’t a new idea. It’s finally happening.”

Despite the reduction from two tunnels to one, the project’s design will remain essentially the same with the construction of a tunnel under the Sacramento Delta. The tunnel will deliver water directly to the pumps protecting native habitat, ensuring climate resiliency, and protecting the conveyance system against seismic risks.

Coleman explained that the single-tunnel project still helps MWA meet our region’s water demands. “This project is about ensuring MWA has reliable access to purchase imported water to recharge our local water basins so we can meet our water needs today and in the future.”

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The Mojave Water Agency manages the region’s water resources for the common benefit to assure stability in the sustained use for its citizens. It is one of 29 State Water Contractors that is entitled to receive State Water Project water when available. The Agency’s territory encompasses 4,900 square miles with a population of 450,000.