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Press Release:

Secretary Laird Comments on WaterFix Vote by Santa Clara Valley Water District

SACRAMENTO – California Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird issued the following statement regarding today’s decision by Santa Clara Valley Water District to participate in the California WaterFix project.

“We commend Santa Clara Valley Water District’s board members for taking action today to stabilize their water supply for generations to come. Their 7-0 vote adds to the momentum we’ve seen in the last two weeks as local agencies around the state have seen the value of WaterFix and formally voted to participate in the project.

Now that we know the universe of local agencies that want to formally join WaterFix, the state will meet with participating contractors to discuss specifics of the project and determine how best to optimize construction of the project to meet their needs. Though dialog continues with federal contractors, our efforts are focused on agencies that have voted to join the project.

As we transition into the next stage of this effort, we must maintain forward momentum to ensure this generational opportunity to fix the state’s aging water delivering system becomes a reality.

Over the next several weeks, the state will look at the certified environmental documents for the project to understand how to best utilize them to proceed with any optimized construction of the project. We will continue to move forward on all permitting processes so we can be prepared for implementation.

Again, we commend the Santa Clara Valley Water District for supporting WaterFix. Like many regions that are making aggressive investments in local supplies from recycling and groundwater recharge, Santa Clara has recognized these important investments do not

eliminate the need for reliable supplies for the Delta and cannot be viable without the backbone supply that WaterFix will ensure.”

California WaterFix is a science-driven proposal to upgrade the state’s outdated water system and maintain a reliable source of water for 25 million Californians and more than 3 million acres of farmland in the Bay Area, Central Valley and Southern California.

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