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**STATEMENT BY LAURA KING MOON, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
REGARDING “MARCH FOR WATER”**

Sacramento, CA -- Today, the California Latino Water Coalition began the first day of a four-day march across the San Joaquin Valley to highlight the severe water shortage that grips the Valley’s farms, cities and jobs, as well as our broader state. Their goal is to raise statewide and national awareness of the water crisis that faces them and to put a human face on one of the most important issues facing California today.

“As public water agencies, we take our responsibility to provide Californians with adequate and dependable water supplies very seriously. But, the drought and the many new regulations and court orders imposed upon us have made it difficult or impossible to meet that duty. We empathize with and thank those who are marching this week. They are a graphic illustration of the human consequences of not addressing California’s deteriorating water supply system.

For decades, the public water agencies throughout the state that serve water to farms, families and businesses have implemented water conservation efforts, water recycling and groundwater recharge projects, and a myriad of other programs with twin goals of providing adequate water supplies for Californians and protecting our natural resources. These programs are very successful and, in most years, extend California’s water supply to meet its needs but, the compounded effects of a multi-year drought and new regulatory restrictions have slashed our water supply. So, it is impossible to conserve or recycle what you now don’t have. The time is now - the state’s primary water delivery system must be upgraded in a way that provides the water we need and also protects local communities and our delicate ecosystems.

We wish the marchers safety in their journey to San Luis Reservoir and success in raising state and national awareness of the severe water shortage that affects us all.”

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The State Water Contractors is a statewide, non-profit association of 27 public agencies from Northern, Central and Southern California that purchase water under contract from the California State Water Project. Collectively the State Water Contractors deliver water to more than 25 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural lands. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit www.swc.org.