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STATEMENT FROM LAURA KING MOON, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF THE STATE WATER CONTRACTORS, IN RESPONSE TO TODAY'S BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE DECISION

During today's Bay Delta Conservation Plan Steering Committee meeting, public water agencies, state and federal agencies and environmental organizations agreed to focus on analyzing the construction of a tunnel to convey the state's water supply under, rather than a canal around, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This, while an important milestone, is not the final selection of a new conveyance system.

This morning, new restrictions kicked in on State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) water exports. The restrictions were triggered as a result of losing a small number of Delta smelt at the state and federal water facilities. The State Water Contractors have projected that the SWP and CVP will collectively lose more than 90,000 acre-feet of water during the next seven days as a result of these new cutbacks. The statement below includes yesterday's response to the new restrictions.

Sacramento, CA – "Today's decision to focus further analysis on a Delta tunnel represented another important milestone in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process. We are getting closer to figuring out what the best solution is for the Delta ecosystem and Californians. Ultimately, we will choose a solution that works best for both the environment and the state's water supply. Right now we are trying to solve the problem just by turning off the pumps, and that's failing both for people and fish."

February 10, 2010 Statement: "State and federal public water agencies are bracing to lose more than 29 billion gallons of water during the next seven days because of these additional restrictions. That is enough water to serve more than 700,000 people for one year. The pressure is on to move responsibly and quickly towards a long-term fix for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta because this is clearly not the right way to manage water supply for millions of people, businesses and farms. By working through the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process, we are aiming to put an end to the massive restrictions on our water supply while simultaneously protecting critical species in the Delta."

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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.