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**STATEMENT BY LAURA KING MOON, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF
THE STATE WATER CONTRACTORS, ABOUT RECENT WATER SUPPLY
LOSSES IN THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA**

“Despite the welcome recent storms that have blanketed the Sierra with snow and dramatically increased river flows, our water supply prospects remain as if we are in a fourth year of drought. Despite the huge flows in the system, our water projects are pumping at only about half their capacity due to continued pumping restrictions. We have lost more than 90,000 acre-feet of potential water supplies in a single week. That much water could have served the needs of about 180,000 California families for a year.

The recent rains illustrate the impact during wet years of federal biological opinions intended to protect various endangered fish species. Water reserves have been drawn down to precarious levels already by three consecutive dry years. Now is the time that we should be rebuilding those supplies, to be ready for the next dry year. Instead, we can’t pump at maximum capacity when the water is available. In essence, we have so constricted our water system that we now face shortages whether it is a dry year or wet.

The only way to solve this problem is to rebuild the Delta water system so that it is more compatible with this precious ecosystem and to restore much-needed habitat. Capturing water supplies when the weather turns wet is precisely what California needs to do in order to provide water to the economy in an environmentally friendly manner. The long-term way out of this cycle is the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, a comprehensive strategy that couples water system improvements with ecosystem improvements.”

Attached is recent Delta water operations information.

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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.