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SLDMWA to Withdraw from SFCWA, Improve Delta Science Investment

Los Banos, CA (February 16th, 2018) – The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Water Authority) has announced it will withdrawal from the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA). A notice of intent letter was formally submitted to SFCWA on Tuesday.

“The Water Authority recognizes the productive contributions SFCWA has made to advance the science of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta system and assist the Water Authority’s member agencies in securing a stable water supply,” said Water Authority Interim Executive Director Jon Rubin. “While our partnership has been valuable, we believe the Water Authority can best serve its members by more directly engaging in these critical arenas.”

SFCWA, a Joint Powers Authority, was established in 2009 by water agencies that receive water transported through the Delta by the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. Its core focus is to ensure a reliable water supply, by facilitating habitat conservation and Delta ecosystem restoration research.

The Water Authority’s Board of Directors voted to withdraw from SFCWA at its regular February board meeting, expressing a desire to take a more active role in supporting Delta science.

“This decision was not based upon the desire to reduce investment in science, especially not at such a pivotal time in the Delta,” Rubin said. “In the coming months, the Water Authority will look to enhance its role in finding workable solutions to restore Delta ecosystem health while strengthening water reliability for our members. The Water Authority will continue to invest in studies and programs that it administers directly and with partners.”

Per the notice of intent letter submitted to SFCWA, the withdrawal is set to take effects 60 days after the notice issued.