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*For Immediate Release*

## **KERN COUNTY WATER AGENCY STATEMENT ON BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN**

Every day that goes by without a solution to California's water crisis increases the harm to people, farms and businesses in Kern County and to the environment in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Kern County Water Agency supports the process that resulted in the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which will help meet California's co-equal goals of improving California's water supplies and restoring the Delta. From our unique perspective as both an agricultural and urban water provider, the Agency has worked aggressively with federal, state and local agencies and with environmental groups to find that balance.

The Agency is part of a diverse coalition of California water agencies from the Bay Area to Southern California that have invested more than \$140 million to develop the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The Plan has reached a significant milestone, and all of the participants that helped develop the Plan should be congratulated.

But there is more that needs to be done. Final decisions about water supplies and regulatory decisions still must be made, and will be the subject of ongoing work during 2011. Governor-Elect Jerry Brown and his Administration will play a key role in continuing the progress we have made. The federal agencies in California have been good partners on these issues, and we hope the new State administration can encourage the federal administration in Washington D.C. to be more actively engaged.

A successful Bay Delta Conservation Plan is critical to California's future, and it has real impacts on Kern County. It will help ensure that, for generations to come, Kern County's agricultural economy can continue to sustain thousands of local jobs that help feed America and countries throughout the world. Similarly, it will help ensure that tens of thousands of homes and businesses in the metropolitan Bakersfield area have a reliable and affordable water supply.

We are committed to working with the Brown Administration, State and federal officials and our stakeholder-partners to complete the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and make its promise of improved water supplies and a better Delta ecosystem a reality.

An informal press conference will be held on Monday, November 22, 2010, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. to discuss the Bay Delta Conservation Plan in the Board Room at the Stuart T. Pyle Water Resources Center of the Kern County Water Agency, 3200 Rio Mirada Drive, Bakersfield.

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