
From: John Menke <jmenke@sisqtel.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 4:42 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Comments on tunnel alternative for BDCP

To: Whom it may concern

From: John W. Menke, A.A., B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

Retired professor in School of Forestry and Conservation, UC Berkeley (1973-78) and Department of Agronomy and Range Science, UC Davis (1978-98), currently purebred red angus seedstock producer for going on 23 years with wife Jennifer in Siskiyou County, CA.

10935 Quartz Valley Road

Fort Jones, CA 96032

530-468-5341

Re: Comments on tunnel alternative for BDCP

Prior to any decision about construction of tunnels or any other alternative, it is high time for an ecosystem approach to the assessment of the problem and stop this analysis-in-a-vacuum approach to California's water situation.

In a nutshell we have a runaway water demand economy and a dearth of water supply action activity, for want of a better way of putting it.

And we have the little delta smelt serving as the legal kicker while demand for more water continues to rise unabated.

From the beginning the University of California decided that normal merit and promotion likelihoods would be low for assistant professors of hydrology, so the result was that UC never had staffing for organized research, teaching and extension in hydrologic sciences at the ecosystem level, and neither have the government agencies working in California. What partial programs that once existed in UC are now lesser in capability. The reason for this UC decision on staffing was that hydrologic science studies were thought to be so long-term that research publication productivity would likely be lacking for young scientists attempting to conduct a normal UC research and teaching career. From long ago, the USDA Agricultural Research Service was always minimal in California because of the exceptional multi-campus Land Grant University presence assuming the research and teaching work was being done—but it was not. Therefore California has and continues to suffer from lack of the necessary skills to solve water problems like those faced by the citizens of California at this time.

Since moving to Siskiyou County in 1992, I have devoted at least 25% of my time analyzing range, fish, water, wildlife and forest management issues in California with most focus on the Klamath and Trinity River watersheds, but I have stayed current on Bay Delta issues as well after serving on a CalFed project review team when the government was beginning to use such organizations as The Nature Conservancy to establish what it thought was needed control of private property in the Delta. I also served on the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project science team which provided much insight into the upland forest management situation California now finds itself, but no focus was devoted to water yield from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Great Valley of California and urban areas. Being a 4th generation Californian from the Sacramento area has likewise given me perspective.

One particular enlightening event took place a few years ago concerning the removal of four dams on the Klamath River that will go down in history as an ultimate example of government mismanagement of water and fishery resources decision making. Science Integrity Officer, Dr. Paul Houser, while working for Bureau of Reclamation, discovered that the USDI Secretary of Interior 'just wanted those dams out' and was willing to ignore the expert science panel's

assessment of the ecosystem situation surrounding such a decision. Such ignoring activity has pervaded the Upper Klamath Basin water issues to this day.

The following is a prime example of misuse of assessment relative to benefits of a practice of water use—efficiency of agricultural irrigation method. When an agricultural producer uses drip irrigation on permaculture tree crops or a hay producer uses a center-pivot sprinkler irrigation system, the public is given the impression that the producer is practicing efficient irrigation for the benefit of the ecosystem as a whole. If a UC extension person or agricultural consultant gets involved and puts in soil water monitoring instruments such that no excess water penetrates below the root zone of the crop, those data are used to confirm further the benefits to the efficient practice.

The problem that arises from such irrigation efficiency is that government agencies naively or with full understanding often cost-share for purchase of components of such irrigation systems without consideration of the extent or the acreage of the practice relative to water supply including groundwater status. The result often is over use of available water supplies to the detriment of downstream fisheries and or water diversions.

Here is the kicker of efficiency. Without penetration of irrigation water to the groundwater and with expansion of acreage of use, the end result is exploitation of water and decline over time in water availability especially during drought periods. In smaller alluvial valley situations accretion of relatively cold water to small streams would be low if efficient irrigation practices dominated. In fact, inefficient flood irrigation maximizes accretion of cold water to fisheries in California's hot summer Mediterranean climate type maximizing fishery benefits.

As one example relative to this efficiency point discussed above, a drip irrigated orchard that is fully stocked with mature trees transpires about same amount of water out of the leaves of the trees as a traditionally flood irrigated orchard but does nothing for groundwater recharge or stream accretion of cold water.

The BDCP assessment relative to tunnel construction is severely lacking in full assessment of many of the ecosystem aspects of water use demand and water supply. Without understanding both, there is no way to assess the benefits long-term.

Overstocked forests that are severely threatened today by wildfire in California, are maximal water spenders thereby reducing watershed output to irrigated agriculture and urban areas. So this is a second example of lack of ecosystem assessment in the current document.

There are many other lacking components as well.

From: Diana C. Wood <dcwlcsw@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 3:46 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Cc: Diana C. Wood
Subject: Comments re: Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Sirs,

I am a native of California who has studied Western water issues for 50 years. I am not a lobbyist, farmer, or landowner; however, I am a grandmother who is deeply concerned about what our generation passes on to the succeeding generations.

We all know that California has an intensely engineered water infrastructure that is in slow collapse for a variety of reasons. One of the on-going pressures, besides climate change and its shifting patterns of precipitation, including quality, quantity and location, is the over allocations of water resources that is based on unrealistic assessments of the expected precipitation. As a society for over 100 years, we have been engineering our way out of the realities of the climate we live in and its finite innate resources. We have denied these realities as we have pushed the various watersheds to their breaking points.

The Delta is an estuary that has been misused past its capacity to adapt and maintain its primary function as a tidal transition ecology between fresh and salt water. It is a complete habitat that serves many functions both for the species that use it and for human agriculture and urban uses. Of course, it is no longer pristine, nor has it been for probably many centuries as various populations have shaped it for their own purposes. However, other populations have not pushed it to the breaking point by the continued demands for unrealistic water exports. Adding the expectations of BDCP/Water Fix (what a charade!) for "reliability" from an innately variable resource with many demands placed on it, is nothing shy of environmental insanity.

In the drug and alcohol recovery communities there is a phrase that is relevant here: "Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result IS insanity." In other words, trying to build and "fix" our way into a more reliable water export situation from a resource that is already collapsing from decades of unsustainable water exports IS an "insane" use of our natural resources. It is also immoral and probably illegal. Water is a public trust resource.

Continuing to plant thousands of acres of nut and fruit trees on the west side of the San Joaquin valley where there are no natural surface water sources is stupid. It is unsustainable and risky to rely on ground water resources and it is the height of hubris and arrogance to ignore the realities of the land and water resources. If corporate agricultural entities choose to 'invest' in these unsustainable practices, why do the rest of us in Northern California have to underwrite their investment? Southern California has been addressing their water needs by incorporating multiple conservation and recycling strategies in their areas.

Why are state and federal agencies going along with this hubris...well, that's easy. You all are getting bullied by large monied special interests.

So questions not answered by the BDCP documents in a real way:

1. The Delta is a tidal estuary in which the fresh water flowing in keeps the salt water from overwhelming the lands and penetrating further upstream. I understand the seduction of taking fresh water out near Sacramento instead of further downstream; however, how is the salt water going to be kept out? According to data, it is already 'saltier' further up into the Delta than it was 20-30 years ago. With rising sea levels in years to come, how is the salt-fresh water ratios going to be kept at levels that allow the continued very productive farming of the Delta. Are ever larger, more impenetrable barriers going to be built...what kind of folly is that?
2. Are 1000's of acres of prime farm land in the Delta going to be 'sacrificed' for marginal poor quality farm land in Westlands Irrigation District because of large monied interests and their political pressure?

3. Economics: Who is really going to pay for this project? Every large Western water project for the last 150 years was supposed to be paid for by the users. And every one of those projects has been re-financed multiple times thru various federal and state government schemes in which in reality the taxpayers end up paying for it. Even if the "rate-payers" pay for the construction of the tunnels, who are the rate-payers? Yes, some are wealthy agricultural corporations, but many, many more are small farmers and individual households whose water bills will sky-rocket.

So yes, the Delta has very serious environmental issues that need to be addressed. However, water is a public trust resource and there are many local and regional environmentally sustainable strategies to address these concerns. These strategies have not been given a thorough and transparent review.

The main point here is that we, as the human users of our water and land resources, must wake up out our delusional dreams of endless abundance and come to terms with the limits of these resources. A quick review of historical societies who refused to 'wake-up' such as the Mesopotamian cultures and the Southwest Anasazis societies should be a clear reminder of what happens when human uses of an environment outstrip the carrying capacity of the resource. The decade before the Dust Bowl is yet another example of this folly. Who do we think we are that we have the right to destroy these resources through wanton over use and misuse? What about our children, their children and their children's children? Don't they have a right to enjoy and prosper within the limits of the environment, as we have?

Diana C. Wood
PO 15265
Sacramento, CA 95851
916-446-2787
dcwlcsw@mac.com

From: Sarah Blaffer Hrdy <sbh@citrona.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 8:04 PM
To: BDCPcomments; Andrew.March@mail.house.gov
Subject: Re: Comments regarding water transport tunnels

To: BDCP Comments

P.O. Box 1919

Sacramento, CA 95812

BDCPComments@icfi.com

Oct. 29, 2015

To the Delta Tunnel Planners,

I support most of Governor Brown's initiatives, but *not* this so-called "Water Fix". The tunnels will cost many billions of dollars and do incalculable harm to the ecology and economy of the Delta while *adding no additional water* to an already over-stretched system.

What we Californians desperately need is to capture more water when it falls. With no rational basis for continuing to rely on snow pack, our most pressing need is increased capacity to capture run-off when it flows. In Yolo County where my husband and I live, the head of our local water board estimated in 2006 that over a million acre feet of water went uncaptured. Our walnut farm is right up against the coastal range, and when it does rain, torrents of water flow down through two sloughs, often flooding the nearby town of Winters and roads leading to it. What we need is more reservoirs up in California's hills to capture this run-off.

More reservoirs increase available water that can be transported where it is needed, when it is needed. Catchment ponds and reservoirs also contribute to ground water recharge. Even the 8 small catchment ponds we have put in at our farm provide some recharge, which is one reason we can still rely on water from our wells. What a waste to spend all that money on tunnels to transport what is already an insufficient amount of water rather than put in more reservoirs to increase the total amount of water available.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah B. Hrdy

Professor emerita University of California, Davis

A.D. White Professor-at-Large Cornell University

RECIRC2765

Member of the National Academy of Sciences

Sarah Blaffer Hrdy
Citrona Farms
21440 County Road 87
Winters, CA 95694
www.citrona.com

From: Barbara Mensch <endlssmr@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 5:00 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delata Tunnel Opposition

I am opposed to the Delta Tunnels because of:

- The economic impact on the farming community, the residents who live on the Delta, and the environmental impact on the ecosystem.
- When driving I-5 it is apparent that lots of land has been irrigated extensively with scarce water in order to produce crops that are shipped to Asia.
- There is no consideration for drought times.
- The back door approach to endeavoring to impose the governor's will upon the people without input from the public.
- The lack of a willingness to evaluate alternative solutions.
- Placing barges and construction throughout recreational waterways creates a dangerous situation for recreationers and those working on the construction.

Please reconsider this plan.

Barbara Mensch
endlssmr@comcast.net

From: Carolyn North <carolyn.north@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 11:18 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta

Dear Resources Agency and Decisions Makers -

The health of the Delta is the health of our cities. Please take seriously what happened in New Orleans during Katrina when the Mississippi Delta's integrity as a transition zone had been compromised. We can't presume to fool around with the processes of the natural world without catastrophic consequences! Please!

Carolyn North

www.carolynnorthbooks.com

BLOG: Musings on the Passing Scene: www.carolynnorthbooks.com/news

www.healingimprovisations.net

"Whatever else happens, either everything is a miracle, or nothing is."

Albert Einstein

From: gary malazian <malazian@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 7:37 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Canals:

To Whom It May Concern:

There are so many reasons not to build these canals it befuddles me why supposedly well-educated leaders in our midst continue to obfuscate the facts and plod unthinkingly toward the destruction of the Bay-Delta Estuary. Governor Brown is on the errant side of this one.

When I have a difficult decision to ponder I use what I was taught as the Jefferson close, i.e., list all the respective advantages and disadvantages of the situation and the answer will present itself. In this instance the disadvantages far outnumber the advantages and this worn-out concept needs to be put in a grave with a tombstone emblemized with "Here lies a bad idea that never came to fruition."

Willfulness in this matter is not an option and the governor needs to move on.

Gary E. Malazian, Ph.D.

From: Mike Williams <mikew53@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 7:07 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta plan

To whom it may concern,

There is absolutely nothing about this plan that can possibly improve delta habitat or contribute to the survival of species within this already environmentally stressed delta system. It is and has always been solely about increased water delivery to big water districts in the southern portion of the state. More Northern California water and more money for the big Ag companies are the goals of the tunnel project. It is unimaginable that this topic can be spun any other way.

Mike Williams
Avid Fly Fisherman and weekly user of the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta

Sent from my iPad

From: Nadine Bailey <nadine.bailey@frontier.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:38 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnel Comments

RE: Delta Tunnel Project
To: BDCP Water Fix Comments
From: Family Water Alliance, Maxwell CA 95955
Position: Oppose

At this time the Family Water Alliance does not support the tunnel solution as a fix for the delta. There are too many unanswered questions for our organization to support the project. Our concerns a lack documentation regarding water usage, water storage after the water exits the tunnels and guarantees about water rights and area of origin.

Thank you.

Nadine Bailey

COO

Family Water Alliance

Cell 530-276-7743

From: Janet Barone <08babe@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:27 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnel Comment

Dear Committee Members,

As a California citizen and taxpayer, I am writing to oppose the delta tunnel. This very expensive (monetarily and environmentally) tunnel will not get us any more water. It is only going to redistribute the water we have to the detriment of the delta and small farmers whose land will be taken from them. I would like to see the billions of dollars used for desalination plants, helping communities upgrade their recycling plants and upgrading reservoirs if needed. That would give us more water not just take water from the delta. One can already see the results of not enough water flowing through the rivers and sloughs. The technologies needed to lessen the cost of desalination and recycling are improving every day and that is the only way are going to get more water than what nature provides. Meanwhile, the tunnel will destroy the delta environment beyond repair, and not just for the fish and birds but for humans as well. The people of California voted down the canal/tunnel idea years ago. It wasn't a good idea then and it isn't a good idea now. And I really don't understand why it wasn't put up for our vote this time.

I sincerely hope you will save the delta and deny approval.

Sincerely,

Janet Barone
1498 Cherry Garden Lane
San Jose, CA 95125

From: Biowf P <biowfgm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 8:42 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnel Comment

Hello,

This is to submit my opinion of the proposed Delta Tunnel project. I am opposed wholeheartedly against this proposal. I can picture no positive benefits except as a money generator for a few stake holders. To consider thinking about sending large amounts of water to a whole different part of California, not knowing what future water availability conditions will be here in the future is credulous at best. The negatives far far outweigh the seeming benefit of an income. have is been considered of the potential costs involved in converting Northern California into a desert economy? This is near sighted, single minded, and foolish.

Alice Poulson

--

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." Baba Dioum

From: djvarellas@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 7:42 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta tunnel Environmental Impact report

My name is Dorothy Varellas. I live in San Francisco and Sonora California. I am a taxpaying, voting citizen who cares deeply for the environment and in particular the San Francisco Bay and Delta. I have lived in California all my life. For the last 40 plus years my family and I have traveled bi-monthly between San Francisco and Sonora, CA. During this time we have witnessed floods, droughts, low snow years and that killer year of 2011-12, when we thought the snow would never melt from our front yard in Sonora.

I am writing to you because I **STRONGLY** oppose the tunnel plan. I am an educator and I can understand what I read and see. There is no way on earth that building 2 40 foot diameter tunnels and filling them with fresh water from the Sacramento and American rivers to ship south will not cause un-repairable damage to ecosystem of the Delta, the Sacramento river and the American river.

We are in the midst of an extremely damaging drought. We are also dealing with climate change and ocean level increases. By grabbing so much fresh water to ship south, you will be allowing further intrusion of salt water into the Delta ecosystem. Millions of people depend on water from the Delta as their main source of drinking water. Our salmon populations are plummeting due to the drought. Your taking additional water will certainly cause the total collapse of our state's salmon population. The SF Chronicle states in their 10/29/15 article titled "Heavy Drought Toll on Salmon" that taking that much water to export to the southland will destroy our "state's \$1.4 billion salmon industry." This will also exacerbate the dilemma facing our water agencies over how to allocate water to farmers, water agencies, and environmental causes.

We must not send another drop of water south. Southern California is essentially a desert climate. We must think we can control nature to the tune of turning the desert into a tropical paradise. We are long past making that mistake and it is time to face the facts. Northern California has given enough, more than enough, of a share of our water to the south. I am tired of conserving and watching my garden die just so big agri can plant in areas where nut trees have no business being planted only to be grown for export.

If you persist in allowing these tunnels you will be condoning the destruction and death of northern California as we know it only to provide "welfare for the rich!"

It is time for us all to say **NO! NOT ONE MORE DROP!**

Dorothy Varellas
35 Carr St
San Francisco, CA 94124
and
17788 Good Shepherd Road
Sonora, Ca. 95370

From: debackpg@wellsfargo.com
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:29 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnel Plan comment

To Whom it may Concern-

The proposed Delta Tunnel Plan is nothing but a water grab from Northern California. It will take decades to build, WILL be vastly over budget and it would imperil fish and the economy of the Delta. This is nothing more than Brown hoping to add to his legacy regardless of the public outcry or desire. We should be building more water storage, as this project does nothing to provide more water for the state. We are now paying for the failure of this state's legislators to recognize their responsibilities to assure that California has enough water to sustain growth that is necessary to maintain a healthy economy.

My family has farmed in the Delta for 160 years and that legacy will cease to exist if this plan goes forward.

Thank You

Gardiner de Back

Gardiner de Back
Senior Vice President
Senior Relationship Manager
Sacramento Commercial Banking Region
Wells Fargo & Co
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 700
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MAC A0716-070

From: Lela Nishizaki <elnish@wavecable.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 8:12 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels

Just a last minute comment from a long time delta area resident and VOTER!!! What are you thinking?? How on earth can you put forward the proposition that the long term good of California can be served by KILLING THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE STATE?!? FOR WHAT – THE SHORT TERM PROFITS OF A FEW HUNDRED (ALREADY WEALTHY) GROWERS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY, WHOSE CROPS ARE MOSTLY EXPORTED ANYWAY!!!??!!

Common sense, here, people!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: L Tomasita Medal <t.medal@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 7:07 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Cc: Tomasita Medál
Subject: Delta Tunnels

To Whom It May Concern:

You have heard all the arguments. You know that the proposed Delta Tunnels would be an environmental disaster. These tunnels are an obscene idea, especially during a drought.

Wild salmon and various other wild fish species are facing extinction; these tunnels would be the final blow. We need our fresh water as developed by Creation. Do not upset the natural balance of our God-given ecosystems with this proposed boondoggle.

Tomasita Medál
P.O. Box 22551
San Francisco, CA., 94122
415.242.1144

From: Carol Baird <caroljobaird@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 5:44 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels

As an Oakland resident who values a healthy San Francisco Estuary, I strongly oppose the proposed Twin Tunnels project. We all know that there are viable, sustainable options for securing severely limited water resources that are more cost-effective than the Tunnels and do not harm the SF Estuary.

Please — do not construct the Twin Tunnels.

Dr. Carol Baird
caroljobaird@gmail.com

RECIRC LTR # 2778

Unused - *Form*

Duplicate of _____

Out of Scope

Other:

(replace original)

From: Moira Burke <moira@onramp113.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 2:23 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Solano County farmer, fourth generation SF Bay Counties resident and one whose careers have centered on agriculture and agricultural research, I have been following Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) developments and issues since 2007 with increasing concern. Sadly, the overriding factor in BDCP decisions seems to be greed of a few at the expense of the well-being of the greater population and ecosystem.

I focus my concerns from three perspectives:

Firstly, having grown up enjoying the San Francisco Bay, Delta estuary and connected waterways all the way to Sierras, I have born witness to the benefits, beauty and wonder of a healthy, bountiful ecological system that has provided clean air, fresh water and abundant plant and animal life. Beyond its intrinsic value, however, this wondrous watershed has provided the ideal conditions in which agriculture can thrive and produce abundant food for those within and beyond its boundaries. That we, humankind, would even think of doing anything that could further harm or detract from this amazingly effective, natural system is unthinkable and incredulous.

Secondly, as a Solano County farmer for over 45 years, current vice-chair of the Solano County Advisory Committee, former scientific researcher at UC Davis, as well as a forestland owner, I have closely observed and evaluated potential effects, intended and unintended, of the BDCP for several years from the perspective of its effect on our ability to produce crops and feed ourselves. It alarms me that somehow agriculture in the northern Bay Counties of Solano, Yolo and Sacramento, seems to be left out of the discussion, though they are among the most productive areas for high value crops and provide a wide array of "ecosystem services" as well. Paramount in concern is the degree to which water salinity levels would move upstream in the Delta as a result of BDCP's proposed water conveyance system. Such salinity levels, would have devastating effects on existing crops in and near the Delta waterways, and we do not know the extent to which such salinity increases would intrude precious regional aquifers. My own operation would be immediately affected since I source feeder cattle from a rancher east of Dixon, whose pastures would die. Many other farmers would be more severely affected.

Lastly, and perhaps most important, I think of my children and grandchildren, i.e. those that follow us. That we would endanger our rich agricultural abundance, leaving following generations to suffer a scarcity of locally produced foods, pains me no end. That our populace would have to depend on products grown "off shore" under conditions we do not control at costs beyond our reach seems unthinkable. We have the proverbial "Golden Goose", why would we even think of risking it?

The BDCP is not about sharing and abundance of water; rather it is about sending a precious, needed resource from a sound, productive agricultural region to an area where poorly thought agri-business choices and water gluttonous development have created a greed for water at a cost to others. Neither our Delta ecosystem, nor our regional agriculture can afford this

ill thought Bay Delta Conservation Plan. I strongly urge the Plan be scrapped.

Sincerely,

Moira Burke

Moira Burke *Agricola: flora et fauna* 5794 Silveyville Road Dixon California 95620

Moira Burke

mobile/text 530 750 9747

From: Jack Saunders <jacest@pacbell.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:07 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels

Around the world, people are working hard to restore and reclaim rivers and estuaries. In California, the San Francisco Bay- Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast of the America's, is being decimated, sacrificed to a cause that benefits private corporate interests at the expense of the people and economy of the State of California.

There is no guarantee that more water will not be taken than currently promised once the tunnels are built. The perpetrators of this financially and environmentally corrupt plan cannot be trusted to do anything that would get in the way of their lofty plans to turn water into a profit center for their personal use.

My objections to the tunnels are threefold:

The California Water Fix does not address the environmental, public health or economic impacts of the proposed Delta tunnels project. Also, the plan ignores alternatives that would save California tax and ratepayers billions of dollars, while investing in the jobs and local water sources that build sustainability.

Salinity intrusion is already impacting the western Delta farms and removing Sacramento River freshwater from the system will make matters worse. Delta farmers cannot irrigate crops with salt water and they certainly cannot plant crops in contaminated soils. The Delta Ag economy, which consists of generations of family farms and farm workers, generates \$5.2 billion for the California economy, annually.

Far less expensive and less environmentally destructive alternatives to the Delta Tunnels are largely ignored. The plan does not seriously consider any alternatives other than new, upstream conveyance. The decision-making process (from the outset) has tilted in favor of increasing water exports from the Delta. The “coequal goals” of providing a more reliable water supply for California AND protecting and restoring the cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta, cannot be upheld if the Delta Tunnels come to pass. This is happening without consideration of meaningful input from the counties who will be most affected.

This plan is taking us backwards, ignoring the ample evidence that economically it is unsupportable. Environmentally it is a vehicle that will degrade the entire Bay-Delta estuary in all the many ways that have been documented but ignored. This is government of the few, for the few. The tunnel project makes no sense and will become a major ecological, human and financial disaster.

REC1RC2780

I respectfully request that you consider all points of view and examine the overwhelming evidence that has been presented by experts that concludes that the tunnels are the least effective solution to a very serious human problem.

Jack Saunders

From: Donald D. Baker <fishondon@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:10 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels

Please stop the delta tunnels! My name is Don Baker. I've fished the delta since I was five in 1945. My dad took me catfishing and stripper fishing in a rented boat for years. The years have gone by fast and the delta has changed a lot since the pumps were put in. The saltwater goes way up river now and will go up river more if the dumb tunnels are put in! I no longer fish the delta since I bought a 24 foot boat to fish salmon 25 years ago. Now the pumps are killing the salmon along with other fish and I am afraid my kids and grand kids will not be able to enjoy fishing much longer. I still have my 16 foot boat to fish the lakes but if the Dumb tunnels are put in it will make easier to drain the lakes too! Please stop the Delta Tunnels! Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Donald Baker

From: djvarellas@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 7:56 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: DELTA TUNNELS

My name is Triant Varellas and I live in San Francisco. I am writing in opposition to the State's plan to build the 2 40 foot diameter tunnels to take water from the Sacramento River and the American River from north of the delta.

There is no way that taking that huge amount of water out of the delta will "save" the delta. The removal of that huge volume of water will allow a much stronger intrusion of salt water cause the delta ecosystem to crash. It will result in the death and perhaps extinction of the \$1.4 billion salmon industry. The removal of that volume of fresh water may very well cause the crash of the San Francisco Bay ecosystem. Also, as climate change continues, and our average yearly temperatures increase there will be less and less snow falling on our mountains. Already our glaciers are melting. Without our winter snow pack any rain we get will fall and run off. By taking such a huge volume of water out of our northern rivers, we run the risk of then drying up in the summer months.

These tunnels are a huge mistake. We risk destroying life in northern California as we now know it. All for providing cheap water for big Agri, and farms growing high water crops like walnuts and almonds for export. We need to concentrate on growing food to feed American families, crops that will be able to survive future droughts and still provide the nutritious meals our families need.

Triant Varellas
San Francisco, CA 94124

From: Carol Murota <cmurota@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 5:35 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta tunnels

I am writing in opposition to the Delta Tunnel project. The negative affects on the eco-system in the Delta are both economic [like job loss and farming] and environmental [like drawing salty water into the Delta and up the Sacramento River and crane habitat].

This project simply moves water from the northern part of the state to the southern part. Building tunnels and dams will not produce more water. We are capable of better solutions.

Please do not make the Delta Tunnel project the Brown legacy.

Sincerely,
Carol Murota

From: Carolyn Curtis <carolyncurtis@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 3:35 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta tunnels

To whom it may concern:

As a ratepayer in Santa Clara county, I want to register my concerns about the Delta tunnels.

1. The tunnels result in no new water. Our rates here will go up but we won't be getting any more water.
2. Construction & administration costs have a way of increasing during such a large-scale project, sometimes astronomically. (Related concern: Who really benefits from this project)
3. A thorough program of conservation, recycling, and especially storage would be more efficient and more realistic, given the possibility (probability?) of more droughts.
4. According to state and federal fishery agencies, we're already taking more fresh water from the delta than is sustainable. I'd like to see a plan that takes increased Bay Area population into account while preserving enough water for the fisheries; see point 3. Incidentally we got rid of our lawn 20 years ago, no rebates back then either.
5. Why not use at least some of the allocated money to fix the levees, and invest any remaining in conservation, recycling, storage? I understand the levees desperately need repairs.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Curtis

531 Alger Drive

Palo Alto CA 94306

From: mspies@autohomeus.com
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 3:32 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels - a poor investment

Comments on the proposed project

1. The numbers do not work. Even desalination is far cheaper.

AND

2. This is an environmental disaster in the making, dispute all the "experts" testimony.

Please kill this project.

Mike Spies
Palo Alto, CA 94303

From: Christine Holmes <cmh22@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:34 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels EIR

Dear California Natural Resources Agency:

Any big project done to the environment is risky. However, we now have adequate research, science and technology to allow us to prevent the worst "unintended consequences" to the environment. And yet, it seems we do not have the will to do so. Installing tunnels to divert away even more water from the Delta will be disastrous in many ways, most especially to any wildlife that currently rely on the delta for fresh water (migratory birds, fish, terrestrial creatures). As you know, the state has already spent millions on a dam to keep saltwater out of the delta. If there were adequate fresh water this wouldn't be necessary. The proposed tunnels will make this problem worse. They will also endanger water supplies.

Equally wrong-headed is the potential for a joint powers of authority of water contractors to fund and operate the project separate from the state. What, California is going to give over the health of the Bay Delta to a bunch of contractors? I am incredulous at the naivety that suggestion shows (or, perhaps the cynicism).

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article27052015.html#storylink=cpy>

You are a government agency, and the Governor is your boss. However, if you do not push back enough on this project to stop it, we (and our descendants) will look back on this as the death knell to the delta. PLEASE do your most important job as stewards of the environment and prevent the bay delta tunnels project.

Sincerely,
Christine Holmes
3395 Market St.
SF CA 94114
Sent from iCloud

From: candy3066@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 6:55 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta tunnels environmental impact report comments

I don't think there has been an adequate environmental study of the impact that the proposed delta tunnels will have on the San Francisco Bay Delta estuary. This is one of the largest estuaries along the western coast of North America. It's mix of fresh and salt water supports many species of fish, seabirds, and plants, all of which are already under pressure by climate change. Diverting the Sacramento River from the delta will be immensely destructive on this unique environment and resource. Also, I read about the emergency in Fort Bragg this summer when sea water encroached into their water supply. Imagine this happening in this heavily populated area, which is what will happen if half of the Sacramento River water is diverted to other areas of the state for water-thirsty crops. I don't think the Delta tunnels are what the legislature had in mind. This legislation was sold to Californians as a way to improve storm water capture, recharge the ground water system, and water-recycling projects.

As a citizen who voted against the peripheral canal in the 1970s, I feel that powerful economic interests with the aid of the governor have done an end run around the citizenry to avoid a vote on building these giant tunnels, as well as a campaign that would provide a full discussion on the problems involved in this project.

Respectfully,
Candice Wright
Oakland, CA

From: Erin Pomidor <ebpomidor@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:23 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Tunnels Plan

To Whom it May Concern,

The Delta tunnel plan is an environmental disaster waiting to happen. Although I am sure that the federal water limits and regulations will be followed, we as Californians have always gone above and beyond the often lax statutes put forth at a national level. This plan will create weaknesses in our irreplaceable Delta, and all in the service of helping a region whose water needs are insatiable and simultaneously wasteful. This plan is analogous to the theft of water from the Owens Valley, and I am sure that in time our Central Valley and Delta regions will experience a similar environmental catastrophe, especially as climate shifts cause a less reliable snow pack. If Southern California is really that desperate for water, they should make meaningful and substantial infrastructure upgrades to allow the capture of seasonal rainfall, which is currently shunted directly into the ocean. Until such time as those communities have done due diligence, I believe that it is foolhardy and negligent to enact a plan to divert water from Northern California, and as such I oppose the building of the tunnels.

Erin Pomidor

From: chrisdowd10@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 4:08 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Delta Water Tunnels

What's next? Are we going to pull the moon closer to the earth to better manage the tides?

Surely we can find better a solution than digging two giant tunnels (straws) from one end of California to the other.

Let's focus on finding a better ecological solution (conservation, recycling, desalination etc.), and stop wasting anymore time and money on "Jerry's Folly"- enough already!

Sent from Windows Mail

From: phillip king <kinphillip@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 11:56 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: DELTA YUNNELS ("NO")

Do not build the tunnels.
The DELTA is in ecological decline, and needs help to be restored.
California needs water not tunnels.
Water conservation and storage YES.
\$15 Billion water transport tunnels NO, NO.

Respectfully Phillip King
958 Garden Gate Dr.
Manteca CA 95336

From: Marilyn Escobar <maybar5lyn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 11:22 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Don't Dig the Tunnels

So Cal has had way more rain than Sacramento has .Why can't we get water from all of their flash floods?

Why doesn't L.A. collect all of its run-off and send it to us? Our lawns are dry, how about the south land's lawns and pools? We are now only "allowed" to water one time per week.

Do not sacrifice Delta wildlife for L.A. "nightlife". Their lifestyle is wasteful!

From: Shaw Jacklyn <jjjjshaw@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 4:53 PM
To: BDCP.comments@noaa.gov; BDCPcomments
Subject: Executive Summary: PREMISE is disconcerting with costly refixits and not beneficial use to Delta River locale, neither NorCal nor SoCal, while 26 testing points of Desalination with over 9000 mile ocean border means business job creation. Fwd: Automa...

Dear Reader/contact of BDCP Comments;

RE: Premise is disconcerting with endless costly refixits. If a destructive tunnel funnel, it would usurp fresh water along natural Delta River. It would not be beneficial use to Delta River locale, neither NorCal nor SoCal. However, 26 testing points of Desalination with over 9000 mile ocean border means business job creation. Thanks in acknowledgement with Fwd: Automatic reply: RDEIR/SDEIR Executive Summary

DESALINATION: California citizens and the governor will find prosperous legacy in cost effective Desalination. It was invented 1970 at University of California, Berkeley, one of the governor's alma maters. Otherwise, dealing with salt will be a factor, to resolve for mutual benefit in NorCal and SoCal, with all affected by the drought. It has been used in Israel, Australia and over 100 nations. If LA Metro Water District, SoCal, has funds to purchase four islands in NorCal, then they have funds to invest in cost effective Desalination! (There's research in wave energy, gravity (like to Bakersfield basin), etc.

IMPACT: The Executive Summary refers to the controversies, prehistoric matters (like sturgeon/salmon; unique six foot winged cranes; etc.); long list of impact effects, whether pragmatic or not; etc. USACE/Engineer Corps has maps of 100 years and can restore effective dredging from Antioch Bay Bridge to Sacramento City. This has been a proven way for fresh water. CVFPB/flood had a report on July 10th in Clarksburg (near Sacramento City) on 80 % non-compliance in Levee Maintenance. That percentage is inexcusable and can be remedied, as done for generations before.

WATER GRAB? The project plan suggests water, land and air grab. Who pays and who profits? It is not the citizens of California, and they voted against any unnatural peripheral canals in 1982. Why do comments refer to ICFI? Is that Virginia based?

Like the USDA poster, we need natural water recycle, reservoirs (with restoration to ground water); etc. Californians have various alternatives for business job growth, agricultural preserves; reforestation (for snowfall); recreational and historical tourism; and so forth.

Governor Mansion: Here is restoration with models of water tech. Californians are proactive, not destructive of local environments, economies, etc.

Thank you for allowing our input. When will we be able to preview feedback?

Sincerely,

Jacklyn Shaw, Ed.D.

Grower, west of Lodi, 20 miles from Rio Vista, heart of the Delta River.

Begin forwarded message:

From: BDCPcomments <BDCPcomments@icfi.com>

Subject: Automatic reply: RDEIR/SDEIR Executive Summary? RJ brief: Real Jobs in business development or unending fixit revisions at government cost?

Date: October 30, 2015 at 2:19:04 PM PDT

To: Jacklyn Shaw <jjjshaw@verizon.net>

Your comment on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix RDEIR/SDEIS has been received. The public comment period for the RDEIR/SDEIS will end on October 30, 2015. All substantive comments received on the RDEIR/SDEIS (and those previously received during the comment period for the 2013 BDCP Draft EIR/EIS) will be responded to in the Final EIR/EIS and considered in the decision-making process. No final decisions have been made regarding going forward with the proposed project or in selecting an alternative; those decisions will only occur after completion of the CEQA and NEPA processes.

For more information, assistance in locating the documents, or if you have special needs, contact 866-924-9955 or visit the website at <http://baydeltaconservationplan.com>.

From: ianandmargareta@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:03 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Hmmmm, I wonder...

The tunnels are a bad idea. It makes no sense to destroy one natural ecosystem to support an unnatural one. California's Central Valley is a desert on artificial life support with Northern California water. That very water is instrumental to keeping the largest freshwater estuary alive and healthy. Mess it up and the huge ramifications will cause damage far beyond the delta. Instead, fund measures that will change the valley and SoCal culture of wasteful water habits. Explore and create efficient water use techniques. Cover the current aqueduct with solar panels to reduce water loss from evaporation. Mount an all-out campaign to get all of California to rethink water as a limited resource that we can't take for granted – and abuse – any longer. Your legacy will be inspirational, Jerry, if you are creative. Don't use an old idea that will drag you under.

Not enough has been done to curtail wasteful water usage, particularly in SoCal. Cultures can change. An emphasis on water conservation and efficiency is part of the answer. The tunnels are a worn out band-aid on a severed artery.

Margaret Anderson
6269 Birds Landing Road
Birds Landing, CA 94512

From: ANDREA MAGGARD <andreasconnor@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:50 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: I am opposed to the "California Waterfix"

Andrea MAGGARD
110 Ralston Ave
MV, CA 94941

Sent from my iPhone

From: Peter Crosbie <pjcrosbie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 1:06 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: I am opposed to the "California Waterfix" aka Twin Tunnels project.

BDCP/California WaterFix Comments

P.O. Box 1919

Sacramento, CA 95812

Below is my attempt to summarize key facets of the situation. Links to public sources below.

The Governor's "Waterfix" has dropped its original environmental mitigation requirements and now is pushing ahead to start construction early next year with no consumer or legislative approval needed. Only approval by federal authorities is required. Caught in the balance, is the ecological health of the SF bay and wetlands, fish species, thousands of threatened Sandhill cranes and other sensitive species that travel the Pacific fly way. Residents, all those who derive their work from the waters, tourists, and future generations of Californians will not know the pristine and vibrant ecosystem we enjoy today for commerce, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Synopsis/facts

1) Recent History - The Delta Tunnels Project formerly known as the Bay Delta Conservation Project (BDCP) included \$8B for construction, mitigation and habitat restoration, in addition to \$17B for tunnel construction. The stated purpose of including migration was to comply with legal requirements to meet co-equal goals of 1) water supply reliability and 2) ecosystem restoration. In Fall 2014 the National Academie of Sciences and the EPA, and US fish and Wildlife Service, and several other agencies disputed most of the plan's claims of environmental benefits and the EPA would not grant the project the 50 year protection from environmental lawsuits it sought. In response, the Brown Administration did two things:

- a. Reduced funding for mitigation and restoration from \$8B to \$300 Million.
- b. Split the project in two
 - i. Delta Water Tunnels construction project called the "California Water Fix
 - ii. The mitigation and restoration project dubbed "California Eco Restore."
- c. This separated the construction project from any restoration work and abandoned the pretense of meeting co-equal goals of supplying water to farms and municipalities, and protecting the water quality and natural habitats.

2) Governor Brown has altered his original proposal that provided for the protection of water **and** the preservation of habitat. This Protection was dropped in the fall of 2014 and now the project has **no** requirement to preserve the ecosystem already at the breaking point. It also omitted any reference to an impact to San Francisco Bay, a tactic that the National Academie of Sciences cited as one of the BDCPs critical scientific gaps. Additionally Governor Brown has asked President Obama to tell the federal agencies officers to give the Water Fix Tunnel project a pass on the adherence to laws concerning the endangered species and water quality.

3) The two tunnels will each be 40 feet wide and 30 miles long and run 150ft below the surface. They will begin at the Streamboat Slough a major channel of the Sacramento River and divert water to the central valley via a pumping station in Tracy. They will run directly under

rich Delta farmland (300 farms estimated to be acquired by eminent domain but no communications to farmers yet), and Staten Island – the winter home of the Sandhill Cranes that use the Pacific flyway. A map of the project is attached below.

- 4) The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Met Water) supplies water to 17M Californians. It obtains most of its water from elsewhere, Colorado River, and 19% from Sacramento River in wet years. Met water has not waived in its support of the tunnel project. They are currently suing the Delta area farmers for using Sacramento River water to irrigate their crops.... water to which the Delta farmers have the highest legal right. In addition documents came to light in Sept 2015 that appear to outline a plan by Met water to buy Delta land in the path of the tunnels without publically disclosing that they would be the purchasers.
- 5) Equipment is already being positioned to begin work on the Waterfix site beginning early 2016.
- 6) The Waterfix project is a reincarnation of the peripheral canal project defeated by voters in public referendum in 1982. It is a 20th century large infrastructure project that doesn't match up to 21st century issues like global warming and drought (i.e. shrinking snow pack in the Sierra). The project will not create one additional drop of water for Californians, will cost and estimate \$15B up to \$67B and take 10-15 years to build...making drought relief a moot point.
- 7) Impact - The diversion of greater amounts of fresh water from the Sacramento River will result in more intrusion of salt water into delta farmland and ecosystems. It will render natural fertile farmland useless, eliminate populations of native fish species; change the ecology of Delta waterways, the Suisun Marsh, San Pablo Bay, and San Francisco Bay. Some Fish biologists believe that the project will wipe out all 21 native fish species. The slowing currents and increased toxin laden San Joaquin river water, and increased salinity will turn sloughs into weedy polluted marshes with blooms of toxic algae to injure humans, pets, and wildlife. This will impact regional and commercial fisherman, marine owners workers farmers, and people who live and work in the Sacramento and San Francisco Bay area. Tourists and future generations of Californians will be deprived of the natural beauty of the vibrant ecology of the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas. Many of these forecasted "waste land areas" are lower income.
- 8) The tunnels are vastly larger than needed and current flow of the rivers and could hold 2/3 of the average river flow of the Sacramento River. San Jose Mercury News columnist Paul Rogers said that it is "like building an 8 lane highway and only two lanes would ever be used. " Additionally no operating guidelines or governance plans in place to regulate the WaterFix.
- 9) The Environmental Water Caucus has proposed a comprehensive water plan to meet California's needs including more investments in water conservation, groundwater replenishment, storm water catchment, and water recycling. Californians have already stepped up and have conserved 25% through simple low cost strategies in a short amount of time.
- 10) The beneficiaries of this project are not the citizens of CA but corporate fruit and nut tree farm interests in the arid region of central California (historically less than 6inches of water per year). These interests have seen margins in the 30% range using water at subsidized rates. Product is often exported, and tree farms cannot fallow their fields during drought years. Paradise Foods (owned by Stuart and Lee Resnick) currently have 188 square miles of farms of high margin nut crops that use more water than 9 Million Californians. The Resnicks (multi-billionaires) have increased their acreage of water guzzling crops: walnuts 30%, almonds 47%, and pistachio 118% over the past ten mostly dry years. Recently they have said they will increase the almonds 10% annually. They are consistent political financial campaign contributors.
- 11) The governor has used criticism of the Delta levee system in event of earthquakes as justification of moving the water. Geological experts have said the threat to the levees is blown totally out of proportion and any leaks have been prior to 1972 since no funds were allocated for upkeep of the levees. Federal monies have since been allocated and since then there have been no levee failures.

--

Peter Crosbie

Phone: (415) 997-9339

Email: pjcrosbie@gmail.com

From: mary dagostino <129med@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:17 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: I am opposed to the California Waterfix project aka twin tunnels

I am opposed to the California Waterfix Project. Please stop the California Waterfix project. It will destroy the SF Bay estuary and the nature and jobs around it in favor of farming interests.

Mary D'Agostino
221 McAllister Ave
Kentfield CA 94904

From: Peter M. Folger <therrac11@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 9:47 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: I oppose the California Water Fix

Building tunnels to send water southward will ruin the San Francisco Bay and Delta. As a fourth generation San Franciscan, I am adamantly opposed to this 20th Century "solution" to a 21st Century crisis.

Peter M. Folger
415-298-5006
Sent from my iPad

From: Kellie Allen <kellie_allen@me.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 2:19 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: I am opposed to twin tunnels project

Kellie Allen RN,MSN
415-290-1583
Kellie.allen@att.net

Candra Manthey-Neff
14785 Curtis Circle
Sonora, CA 95370

October 29, 2015

BDCP/WaterFix Comments
P.O. Box 1919
Sacramento, CA 95812

NOV 03 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The EIR/EIS does not adequately address my concerns about the delta tunnel project. It does not sufficiently address environmental, public health or economic impacts of the proposed Delta tunnels project. I am very concerned that this project will have a negative affect to the delta, the wildlife that live there and the people of Northern and Central California.

There has to be a better way to solve water issues than this! The cost will be astronomical, the disruption to the area during construction will be catastrophic and the loss of water to the delta after the tunnels are constructed will endanger the entire ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Candra Manthey-Neff".

Candra Manthey-Neff

RECIRC 2799

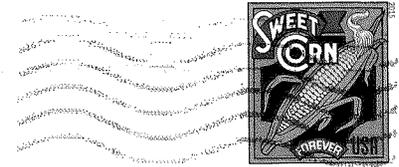


Candra D. Manthey-Neff
14785 Curtis Cir
Sonora CA 95370-7504

Proud Supporter of The Wildlife Land Trust

SACRAMENTO CA 952

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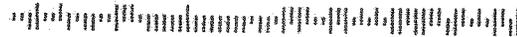


RECIRC 199

NOV 03 2015

BDCP/Water Fix Comments
P.O. Box 1919
Sacramento, CA. 95812

95812191919



TO: BDCP/CALIFORNIA WATERFIX COMMENTS

NOV 03 2015

IT IS COMPLETELY ARROGANT FOR YOU TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE WHOLE ECOLOGY OF THE ONLY WEST COAST ESTUARY IN EXISTANCE. THE SACRAMENTO RIVER IS A EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ITS VIABILITY. TO CHANGE THIS ECOLOGY TO MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM IS UNTHINKABLE.

SINCERELY

M. YANNUCCI

BOX 429

BETHEL IS.

CALIFORNIA 94511

