

# Valley Economy

A discussion of economic, business, and environmental issues of importance in the Central Valley.

Monday, August 28, 2017

## WaterFix declining trend

I recently started adding this table to presentations about the Delta tunnels. It generated a lot of comments, so I will add it to the blog.

	Avg. Annual WaterFix Yield Compared to the No Action Alternative	Insurance against future regulatory actions.
2007 BDCP Objectives	1,500,000 af	Yes, Section 10 ESA regulatory assurance
2013 draft BDCP EIR	392,000 af	Yes, Section 10 ESA regulatory assurance.
2015 recirculated EIR	255,000 af	No, Section 7 permit
2016 Draft Biological Assessment	225,000 af	No, Section 7 permit
Jan 2017 Final EIR	172,000 af	No, Section 7 permit
June 2017: Revised project description for Biops	Adds unlimited pulse flows for salmon, not included in water supply modeling	No, Section 7 permit
Biological Opinions for Operations	?	No, Section 7 permit
SWRCB Permit	?	No, Section 7 permit

Water agencies promoting the Delta tunnels say they are worth investing in because of the downward trend in water exports from the Delta under the current system, and the prospect of additional regulation if the Delta environment and fish species' continue to deteriorate. The implication is that the WaterFix will stop the decline, but is that justified?

The table above was compiled directly from the BDCP/WaterFix documents over the years. It's clear that the water supply from the tunnels is also on a declining trend, there are more regulations still to come, and there is no protection from future regulations under a Section 7 permit.

In addition, the biological opinions found that endangered and threatened fish species fare worse with the tunnels than under a No Action alternative. Since it is the decline of fish populations that is triggering increased regulations, there isn't a strong reason to believe that additional regulations are less likely with WaterFix than without.

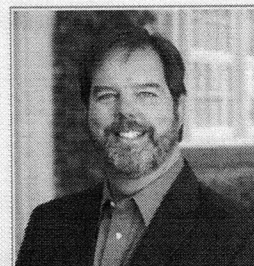
Posted by Jeff at 6:01 PM

Labels: delta tunnels

### 1 comment:

Unknown September 1, 2017 at 1:18 PM

Are you willing to consider that more water export is possible while nearly eliminating harm to Delta? Key is converting 1.5 mile levee into Fish screen with 1.5 million square feet of screen at the Clifton



#### About Me

Jeff

I am Executive Director of the Center for Business and Policy Research at the University of the Pacific, where I have a joint faculty appointment in the Eberhardt School of Business and the Public Policy Program in the McGeorge School of Law. My professional areas of expertise are regional economics (such as labor and real estate markets), and environmental economics. Much of my research has been on the economic impacts of environmental policies such as the Endangered Species Act, sea-level rise, climate change, and land use. Depending on the facts, these studies sometimes favor environmental viewpoints and sometimes business points of view. This is a personal journal and reflects my thoughts at a particular time. I am open to changing my mind in light of new facts and better arguments.

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Court Forebay (CCF). Keeping aquatic life in the Delta, and only filling CCF at night while pumping 24/7 using CCF as a reservoir. To fix SALT issues add shipping lock and tidally controlled louvers at 3 Benicia bridges.

Joseph\_Rizzi@sbcglobal.net

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