

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX
RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Sacramento, California

Reported by: Susan I. Stuart, CSR No. 6410

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APPEARANCES

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1 Comment By Gail Burnham

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3 I'm Gail Burnham.

4 I was a water works engineer for 40 years with
5 Southern California districts and with Corps of Engineers
6 across the street here. We couldn't get levees to stand
7 up in the Delta structurally from an engineering point of
8 view. I would love to know how they propose to put those
9 tunnels in and have them resist earthquakes.

10 They also need to come up with something that
11 actually describes the funding for the \$65 billion that
12 they need to do the tunnels.

13 The tunnels produce no new water.

14 And I'm also confused about just how they keep
15 salmon out of the tunnels when they're in operation.

16 I would also love to see more elaboration on the
17 mitigation for the damage that it will do to the fisheries
18 because there's nothing the Delta needs for fisheries more
19 than water. If you take the water out up by Sacramento or
20 Clarksburg, that leaves you with inadequate flows for
21 every kind of fish in the Delta, not just the smelt but
22 the salmon, the steelhead, and the sturgeon. So that's --
23 I'm pretty -- I don't know. Did I -- did I time out?

24 If they'll explain how they'll pay for it and how
25 they'll mitigate the damage to the fish and why they're

33

1 not allowing the public to vote on it like we voted on the
2 Peripheral Canal. I mean that's the very first step, it
3 should go to a bond vote and give us all a chance to vote
4 against it like we did then.

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1 Comment By Rogene Reynolds

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3 My name is Rogene Reynolds. I have lived in the
4 Delta all my life.

5 I was against the Peripheral Canal 35 years ago.
6 The Delta WaterFix -- or the California WaterFix is a
7 rehash of an old, old antiquated and discounted plan. I
8 have read chapter eight, water quality, in the new and
9 revised EIR/EIS, and the biggest problem is there is still
10 no mitigation for the salt intrusion and the damage to
11 Delta water quality that the tunnel program will create.
12 And I'll send the rest of it in writing.

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1 Comment By Michael Frost

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3 My name is Michael Frost.

4 I am opposed to the California WaterFix for three
5 reasons. The monetary cost is too high. Assumptions for
6 the project were developed in 1912. They do not apply to
7 2015. Sixty-five billion dollars or more for water
8 delivery in 24 years is not a good deal for the state.

9 The second reason is the environmental cost is too
10 high. There is no water to flow through the tunnels. If
11 we use the last four years as an example, no water would
12 flow through the tunnels. And if we diverted the
13 Sacramento River in these dry years, there would be
14 multiple environmental consequences, one of which is
15 drinking water, quality and quantity, which would be
16 significantly affected by these environmental costs with
17 the California WaterFix.

18 The third reason is opportunity cost. California
19 WaterFix sucks all the oxygen out of the room. The money,
20 time and effort will be focussed on delivering nonexistent
21 snow melt into 24 plus years when we should be investing
22 our money in regional self-sufficiency projects. Regional
23 self-sufficiency projects help provide more supply through
24 conservation and recapture in dry years, and they also
25 provide mitigation of flood damage in the eventual flood

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1 years.

2 Period.

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1 Comment By Patricia Atkins

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3 My name is Patricia Atkins. So my statement -- I'm
4 a second generation Californian, live on Bethel Island.

5 And I believe that since California is the world's
6 fifth largest supplier of food and agriculture to the
7 world and since the California central valley aquifer
8 system is so seriously in crisis, depleted by over-usage,
9 this five-year drought, and Southern California cries for
10 more water, it only shows they will always want more. And
11 we must protect our water and our Delta systems as well as
12 our aquifers. No tunnels in California.

13 That's it.

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1 Comment By Rhonda Hanson

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3 My name is Rhonda Hanson. I have lived on the
4 California Delta for 42 years.

5 I first would like to say that it was a stroke of
6 genius to remove the name "Peripheral Canal" and instead
7 call it the "Bay Delta Conservation Plan." Most people,
8 including myself, assumed that this plan would actually
9 help our Delta. It wasn't until today that I found out
10 that the Brown Administration dropped the 50-year
11 guarantee to restore the Delta's environment. According
12 to the San Jose Mercury News, environmentalists say
13 without that 50-year environmental guarantee up front in a
14 legally binding document, promises to restore the Delta
15 after the tunnels are built mean very little. Water
16 policy advisor Jonas Minton said it reminded him of Wimpy
17 from the old Popeye cartoon who used to say, "I will
18 gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." Although
19 the point is made with humor, there is nothing funny about
20 what is going on in this state with regard to our water
21 supply. Water supplies can be boosted with more
22 conservation measures, more water recycling, drip
23 irrigation, and many other ways.

24 In closing, I would ask that you please quit wasting
25 the public's money by continuing to work on this

1 potentially disastrous project, especially now that you
2 have taken away our safeguards to protect the Delta. How
3 can you do that? This project is not in the best
4 interests of the birds, the fish, or the people who live
5 near and rely on the California Delta for their survival.

6 Thank you.

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1 Comment By Lisa Ruiz

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3 I'm Lisa Ruiz, and I come here today from indigenous
4 tribes. I'm from the Miwok tribe of Sacramento, and I
5 come here, I'm speaking for and on behalf of the ancestors
6 and of the salmon. We are indigenous people that live by
7 the river, and I just wanted to mention that it's -- the
8 impact that this will have on the rivers for the salmon
9 life, the fish life, of all life, it's a great concern.

10 And I feel that Governor Brown, he doesn't take the
11 indigenous people's voices into consideration while going
12 through these issues. We recently -- last month we were
13 closed out of a water summit at the Westin Hotel in
14 Sacramento, and knowing that many of the indigenous people
15 cannot afford \$1500 to get in. But if we did get in, we
16 weren't allowed to speak.

17 So I feel that it's really important that the
18 indigenous voices be heard on all these issues and that --
19 I ask that these can be prolonged to give people more time
20 to go over these pages and pages of information. And I
21 just would like to have them understand the impact that
22 this is going to have on all life and the earth.

23 Thank you.

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1 Comment By K.O.

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3 My name is K.O. I'm from Walnut Creek, California.
4 Walnut Creek, California.

5 So the one thing I was wondering about is getting a
6 contract for cleaning out the sediment in the tubes.
7 Because to me they look like two great big sluice boxes.
8 They were used in the Gold Rush. And that the gold flakes
9 will go to the bottom of the sediment and collect in the
10 tubes or in the sedimentation ponds. And I'd like to see
11 that that gold doesn't come into my little hands because
12 if I get the contract -- because I would like it to be
13 returned to the people of California because we're going
14 to be needing to import a lot of water, freshwater, and
15 we're going to need that money. You cannot drink gold
16 dust.

17 That's it.

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1 Comment By Katherine DaSilva Jain

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3 Katherine DaSilva Jain.

4 This project is neither environmental nor is it
5 justice, and it certainly is not in the budget. I support
6 the people of the Delta and their protestations, and I
7 demand that the alternatives be implemented. The
8 alternatives to draining water from the Delta must include
9 mandatory drip irrigation for all of the farmlands that
10 use the water and exploration of all of the possible safe
11 environmental processes for conservation and --
12 conservation, period.

13 That's it.

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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX
RECIRCULATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Sacramento, California

Reported by: Susan I. Stuart, CSR No. 6410

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1 Comment By Mary Ann Robinson

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3 Mary Ann Robinson.

4 I'd like to see more attention to improving the
5 current system of pumps, screens, diversions, and canals
6 and less attention to a multi-billion-dollar project to
7 junk the current system, spend what we need to fix what we
8 have. With reduced future water supplies, we won't need
9 more diversion projects or tunnels.

10 That's it.

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23 Questions are can the farmers afford such expensive
24 water? How much will urban rate payers have to pay? And
25 how much water does the Delta really need to survive? And

1 I guess the bottom line is will the state conduct a full
2 cost-benefit analysis of the project that includes the
3 value of freshwater to the Bay Delta estuary?

4 I also don't agree with the fact that -- the
5 environmental aspect of these dual parts, dual focus. It
6 was originally always the ecological side and the water
7 sustainability side. Because the EPA said oops, this
8 isn't going to work the way you think, they simply dropped
9 the whole ecological side.

10 So when the tunnels are built, it's going to create
11 muck or you guys call it reusable tunnel material. I call
12 it muck. Who's going to clean that up? I don't think
13 that's been funded.

14 So we are thankful that the time to reply has been
15 extended because there's a lot of new information. Thank
16 you very much.

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1 Comment By Stina Va

2

3 So my name is Stina Va. I've been working to fight
4 the Delta tunnels project for over two years now as the
5 campaign administrator for a grass roots campaign. A lot
6 of my job involves trying to figure out ways to get the
7 public to understand this project and the impact of it.
8 Tunnel agencies have made sure to make this very hard for
9 us.

10 In the 1980s and '70s the governor named this
11 project the Peripheral Canal, and voters rejected it.
12 Then the governor deceptively named it the Bay Delta
13 Conservation Plan and more recently the California
14 WaterFix. None of these titles help the public understand
15 that this is a major project involving two gigantic
16 tunnels. Even in the west and south central valley where
17 people are trying to over-pump the Delta pro tunnel groups
18 or agencies deceive their own farmers and farm workers by
19 referring to the tunnels as a damn project or a water
20 storage project.

21 Pro tunnel agencies are fooling everyone in the
22 state of California about this project. Their public
23 hearings continue to be a show. There are no actual
24 decision-makers at these hearings to listen to our
25 concerns about our public health or economic future.

47

1 Many of us have bought homes here in the Delta and
2 intend to raise families here. And we are also intending
3 to maintain these with stable jobs. But the tunnel
4 project will destroy these opportunities for us. It will
5 severely change the quality of life for people living
6 here.

7 Some of our cities, like Stockton, are already
8 suffering from economic depression. This tunnel project
9 if it passes will exacerbate all the issues we already
10 have to sustain farming and create toxic drainage-impaired
11 lands whose run-off only returns back into the Delta where
12 millions of people live next to the largest estuary. Yet
13 we will suffer the worst water contamination if these
14 tunnels are built.

15 That's all.

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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

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1 Comment By Steve Hopcraft

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3 My name is Steve Hopcraft.

4 And I am unalterably opposed to the tunnels. And I
5 want to tell the Governor and the Obama Administration
6 that this is five levels of crazy.

7 First level, there is no water to export. Who gets
8 up in the middle of a four-year drought and says I've got
9 the solution to California's water challenges, let's build
10 a huge underground water tunnel large enough to fly
11 airplanes through? If you haven't noticed, there is no
12 water for the tunnels.

13 Secondly, most of the water -- most of the water
14 that is exported through the tunnels -- or would be
15 exported through the tunnels is used for the wrong
16 purpose. It is -- two thirds of that water is used for
17 unsustainable farming, mostly for export, along I-5.

18 Third, the cost of the tunnels is unsustainable and
19 unworthy of our investment of \$70 billion and the debt for
20 multiple future generations.

21 Fourth, the tunnels will actually take away the
22 money we need to spend on sustainable solutions that
23 actually will solve California's water dilemma.

24 And lastly, the truly sustainable solution is to
25 take that same money and invest it in local renewable

1 regional water independence. Say, for example, capturing
2 the ten percent of our water that is currently lost
3 through broken water pipes throughout the state. That's a
4 much better way to begin to solve our water challenge.

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10 Because of that -- I live on the Delta. I enjoy the
11 rivers here. And last year with violation of the Clean
12 Water Act over 90 percent of juvenile salmon were killed
13 because of the water being too warm.

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1 Comment By Henry Go

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3 My name is Henry Go. I'm 81 years old. And I was
4 born in Courtland, California. I am a small landowner
5 there in the Delta.

6 I think that part of the great tradition of the
7 American society is that of land ownership. It instigated
8 the spread of our American nation across the west by way
9 of the Kinkaid Act and the Homestead Act. It goes back to
10 the time when we shed our ties with England, when we
11 became citizens, and also the right of land ownership.

12 The new project will go right across my property and
13 I will -- my children will lose all their inheritance and
14 the productivity of the land forever. My problem is that
15 that's all I have to give to my children. The idea of
16 land ownership is sacred in our society of America. I
17 think it should not be tread on lightly.

18 Thank you very much.

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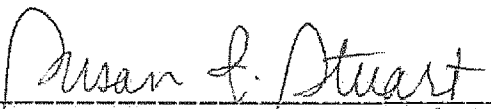
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25

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO) ss.
3

4 I, Susan I. Stuart, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
5 for the State of California, hereby certify that I was
6 present and reported in stenotype all the comments in the
7 foregoing-entitled matter; and I further certify that the
8 foregoing is a full, true, and correct statement of such
9 comments and a full, true, and correct transcript of my
10 stenotype notes thereof.

11 Dated at Sacramento, California, on Thursday,
12 July 30, 2015.
13

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16 Susan I. Stuart, CSR 6410.
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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX RECIRCULATED
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TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

Sacramento, California

Reported by: KAREN A. URBANO, CSR License No. 6698, RPR

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COMMENT BY

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MS. SALLY HITOMI

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MR. JOHN LIVINGSTON

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8

MS. BETSY WEILAND

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MR. GARY RAY ADAMS

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10

MS. JOANN SMITH

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11

MR. SAMSOR SAFI

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12

MS. SUZANNE WOMACK

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MS. SUSAN CASTON

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MS. MARIANNE TATE

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MS. ELIZABETH ALLEN

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MS. JACKIE LAUHLAND SHAW

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MS. JANIS McLEAN

23

18

MR. GARY TUCKER

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19

MR. LUCAS STUART-CHILCOTE

26

20

MR. BILL RICS-KNIGHT

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MS. CHRISTINA FUGAZI

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MR. JIM HALL

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MS. JOAN JAVELOS

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MR. LUKE JOHNS

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MS. BARBARA DALY

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11 (NO ATTACHMENTS)

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1 COMMENT BY BURT WILSON

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3 Burt Wilson. Under ES123, refinements to
4 Alternative 4, it states that habitat restoration in the
5 Delta beyond these alternatives, mitigation requirements
6 will occur separately through implementation of California
7 EcoRestore, E-C-O-R-E-S-T-O-R-E, and these activities will
8 be further developed and evaluated independent of the
9 water conveyance facilities.

10 This makes it very clear that the California
11 WaterFix is an independent operation. As such, it will
12 probably be turned down by the Delta Stewardship Council.
13 Because a few years ago when the no tunnel option was
14 being considered, the DSC turned it down because it was
15 not associated with the Habitat Restoration Program.

16 Well, neither is Alternative 4A, the California
17 WaterFix.

18 So it has to be then turned down by the Delta Stewardship
19 Council unless a little flimflam goes by on the side
20 beforehand.

21 Please look into this. Thank you very much.

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11 (NO ATTACHMENTS)

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1 COMMENT BY SALLY HITOMI

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3 Sally Hitomi. Given the significant reductions in
4 fish populations, how can we protect the fish if we take
5 even more water.

6 It seems to me like the tunnels are a bad idea for
7 all of California. Thank you.

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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX RECIRCULATED
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
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TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

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1 COMMENT BY JOHN LIVINGSTON

2

3 John Livingston. I want to comment on the proposed
4 action to place tunnels in the Delta and ship water to the
5 canals to the south.

6 I'm a retired civil engineer with extensive
7 knowledge in pipeline and tunnel design. I am concerned
8 that the capacity of the tunnels will be oversized
9 significantly, which will allow government agencies to
10 pump more -- or allow more water to be sent south than is
11 given in the documents.

12 I'm also concerned about surface damage to the
13 grounds during construction. The number of vertical
14 shafts required to construct the tunnels is not indicated.

15 Access is needed at each of these vertical shafts
16 for construction. This will have significant surface
17 environmental damage, which is not discussed in the
18 environmental documents. Thank you.

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1 COMMENT BY BETSY WEILAND

2

3 My name is Betsy Weiland. I have worked for
4 15 years on issues surrounding the American River, the
5 lower American River in particular.

6 So I'm here today as a member -- a board member of
7 Save the American River Association. Here has been one of
8 our questions all along regarding these tunnels. The
9 issue evidently is not capacity.

10 The canals are able to hold the amount of water
11 necessary to deliver full contract water delivery when we
12 have enough water. The issue is that the pumps with fish
13 entrainment, et cetera.

14 We know the pumps are not technologically up to
15 snuff. There is a lot of things that can be done at the
16 pumps to minimize the fish entrainment, to increase the
17 efficiency of the pumps.

18 Why then would we not work on upgrading those pumps
19 as opposed to just trashing the entire system, going to
20 all the expense and the environmental destruction. Work
21 on those pumps and forget those tunnels.

22 It doesn't make any sense. Doesn't make any sense
23 from an economic perspective, from an environmental
24 perspective. It really it turns the tunnels into a
25 boondoggle. So that's my comments. Thank you very much.

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1 COMMENT BY GARY RAY ADAMS

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3 Gary Adams, Concord, California. As a long-time
4 resident of the Delta, I have enjoyed the recreation since
5 1952. I'm an officer in several organizations related to
6 the Delta, such as California Striped Bass Association, a
7 founder of Restore The Delta.

8 Prior to that growing up with a family, who have all
9 gone to college and universities in the area, we have all
10 come to the conclusion that the method of water management
11 has been slanted. Too many times we have false science
12 being thrown upon us and have seen cities, especially
13 smaller cities, with their general population losing jobs
14 especially those who are not college bound.

15 We would like to see this end, and remember that the
16 resources in the Central Valley and much of the population
17 will never be college bound, but they need viable jobs.
18 They can't all be contractors. That's it.

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1 COMMENT BY JOANN SMITH

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3 Joann Smith, and you want an address or anything
4 else.

5 I just want you to know how very unhappy I am about
6 the tunnels. The first time I heard about the Bay Delta
7 Conservation Plan, they thought it was a done deal. I
8 mean they'd been working on it. They, being the Bay Delta
9 Conservation Plan. They'd been working on it seven or
10 eight years. And they had -- they didn't have go to the
11 people for a vote, even though this was a project that
12 will destroy our Delta. It would just destroy it.

13 I thought it's wrong. It's wrong. There are other
14 ways. They've got the Edmund G. Brown and the Mendota
15 Canals down closer to Tracy. They say, they don't work,
16 you know, this and that. Make them work. Fix it. You
17 know, do something. Fix it. And make more storage.

18 Granted, you know, we can't say, I would rather we
19 divided northern California and southern California, but
20 that's not going to happen. But to only look after or
21 take care of the large water districts is not right.

22 The tunnels are wrong. No matter what anybody says,
23 the California Fix is a lie. There will be no more water.
24 Granted, it will give some people jobs, but it's going to
25 devastate the Delta. It will ruin it. You can't take the

11

1 water away and think you're going to fix it when
2 everything there needs water, you know.

3 So anyway, I oppose it. It's wrong, and I hope it
4 does not pass. No way. No how. Thank you.

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1 COMMENT BY SAMSOR SAFI

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3 Good afternoon. My name is Samsor Safi. I work
4 with the Regional San, which is the waste water treatment
5 plant in Sacramento.

6 We currently discharge secondary treated affluent
7 into Sacramento River approximately 12 to two miles
8 upstream of the proposed intakes. We're in the process of
9 upgrading to a tertiary treatment, and it's approximately
10 cost us \$2 million.

11 We commented on the 2013 BDCP and related EIR/EIS,
12 and it was lacking clarity in addressing impacts on
13 Regional San's operation, our NPDS permit obligation and
14 related water quality impact.

15 Unfortunately, the 2015 version of EIR/EIS and new
16 alternatives also lacks that clarity. We have to maintain
17 a 14-to-1 ratio of river flow to our affluent discharge.

18 When there is not enough flow in the river, when we
19 cannot maintain that 14-to-1 ratio, we have to divert our
20 affluent to our on-site emergency storage basin, which we
21 have 302 million gallon capacity until the river flow is
22 maintained, so we can discharge.

23 We have submitted numerous models, expert analysis
24 and comment letters previously. During our analysis, we
25 have discovered numerous errors in the model and

1 calculations of BDCP, and BDCP may have significant impact
2 on river water quality, river ambient temperature, which
3 can affect our NPDS permit obligation and other
4 water-related issues.

5 We encourage the BDCP and the new alternatives to
6 fully identify the issues and must mitigate Regional San's
7 operation facilities, permit obligation and water quality
8 issues.

9 In addition, the new 2015 EIR/EIS lacks clarity on
10 defining baselines for existing condition, new action, no
11 action alternative, late long-term and early long-term.

12 So we ask for providing additional clarity on those
13 things and mitigating Regional San's impacts. Thank you.
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1 COMMENT BY SUZANNE WOMACK

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3 My name is Suzanne Womack. I'm a second-third grade
4 teacher. My farm is on Clifton Court, and it used to be a
5 3,000-acre farm. Now, it is about 600. The rest of it
6 was taken for the Clifton Court Forebay.

7 Our land is seriously impacted by the Clifton Court
8 Forebay. It leaks. It has rodents. Then we have problem
9 with all the water being taken south 15,000 cubic feet per
10 second, whereas we take six cubic feet per second when we
11 irrigate our crops. Because I'm also -- I have -- we have
12 a farm, but, you know, I have to work.

13 Anyway, so what's happened is we've seen first-hand.
14 I was eight when the California Water Project went in, and
15 the amount of damage it's caused, the amount of fish that
16 have been lost. It's just horrendous.

17 So I want to stop the tunnels. They're just going
18 to add more. They're going to be taking up the tunnel
19 point and at the forebay. They're not going to help the
20 forebay because they're going to continue to take.

21 Right now we see when the gates are open, and
22 they've been open -- they were open last July. So when
23 there are tunnels, we won't know when they're taking
24 water. It will be just whenever they want to, the water
25 will go. So that needs to happen.

15

1 The last point I really want to make is when the
2 original California Aqueduct was built, it was built just
3 before EIR and EIS went in in '71. There's never been an
4 EIR/EIS done. And every time we ask for one to be done,
5 one to be taken, they tell us that, oh, it can't because
6 it's before.

7 Now, if we had -- if I had a restaurant -- if I
8 bought a restaurant, and I wanted to open my new
9 restaurant at a place that's been in business forever, I'd
10 have to bring it up to code.

11 Well, this bringing in the tunnels is like bringing
12 things up to code. We need to have an EIR/EIS on the
13 entire project because that's what this is for. And we're
14 not getting that.

15 The last thing I want to say is we need 180 days of
16 time. We had -- we started with a 45-day amount of time.
17 We've gone up to 105. We need 180 days of comment just
18 like we would have. This is a totally different document.
19 We're not in the middle of the process. We're starting
20 over again.

21 So thank you very much.

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1 COMMENT BY SUSAN CASTON

2

3 My name is Susan Caston. I'm 60 years old. I'm a
4 resident of San Francisco. I'm a CPA. I do taxes for a
5 living, property owner, taxpayer, probably three
6 percent -- top three percent.

7 Love the Delta. I'm a recreational user. I'm very
8 interested in purchasing some property up there, and I'm
9 terrified. My thought is that in addition to the water
10 salinization and the effect on the businesses, the
11 property values are also going to be very adversely
12 affected with this.

13 I don't want to spend \$700,000 on a home now to have
14 it be worth \$500,000, you know, when the water is ruined,
15 and the water levels go down in the Delta. They're
16 talking about these tunnels costing probably
17 \$60 million -- \$60 billion, whatever it is, you know,
18 after all the overruns because things never go the way
19 they are planned.

20 And I think that money would be much better spent on
21 desalinization plants. That ocean is only going to be
22 getting bigger and bigger, and that's all the water is
23 coming in any way.

24 So see if there is anything else I wanted to say.

25 And I don't think we need any more almonds, and I

17

1 don't think we need more pistachios. I think that
2 unfortunately Governor Brown, who I have been a big fan of
3 for a long time, is being a bad boy. And he is in the
4 pockets of Big Ag, like the rest of the politicians, and
5 I'm very disappointed.

6 But anyway, so this is all about me. Thank you for
7 taking my comments.

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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX RECIRCULATED
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015

Sacramento, California

Reported by: KAREN A. URBANO, CSR License No. 6698, RPR

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1 COMMENT BY MARIANNE TATE

2

3 Marianne Tate. I want to go on record as opposed to
4 the California Fix Project. I believe it's damage to the
5 environment and our Delta communities is the single most
6 devastating disaster northern California could face.

7 I'm a property owner in Walnut Grove, as well as,
8 Antioch, California. And not only are my concerns about
9 the environment and the ecology of the Delta estuary, but
10 my personal water use will be affected.

11 I've chose to live in these communities for the last
12 40 years. I'm a voter. I'm a homeowner. I'm a property
13 owner. I've made this my home because I love the Delta.
14 And I don't believe our water should be stolen out from
15 under us for commercial use.

16 This is sacred land, historically important in the
17 development of California and one of the largest inland
18 deltas anywhere in the Western Americas.

19 And that's all I have to say.

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1 COMMENT BY ELIZABETH ALLEN

2

3 My name is Elizabeth Allen. I live in Oakley,
4 California, which is a fairly rich agricultural district
5 right now, and my husband works for the irrigation
6 district. He's a maintenance supervisor there.

7 I'm looking at all these plans and everything to
8 take water away and like the farmers are very concerned.
9 I mean it's hard enough with the drought.

10 Now, they want to take fresh water, which has to be
11 replaced with something, and that's going to be saltwater.
12 So they plan on changing our agricultural area into a
13 non-agricultural area.

14 I like it the way it is, and I wish we could see
15 more of it. I think all this money that's being spent on
16 the tunnels would be better spent on creating two,
17 permanent solution, desalination units down south.

18 That was an arid region to begin with historically,
19 and now, they want to turn our area into what will
20 probably become an arid region. It makes no sense. Makes
21 no sense whatsoever.

22 So and then also I'm wondering how much money is
23 going to be siphoned right off the top to line
24 politicians' pockets. This is just -- it's a ridiculous
25 idea. Ridiculous.

20

1 And that's all I have to say on the matter. Again,
2 I'm Elizabeth Allen from Oakley, California.

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1 COMMENT BY JACKIE LAUCHLAND SHAW

2

3 My message is to BDCP comments and ICFI.com, maybe
4 more to come later, to the Bureau of Reclamation, the
5 United States Army Corps of Engineers and others,
6 including Senate Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, our
7 California Legislature bipartisan. We all drink the same
8 water.

9 It's June 28th, 2015. My name is Jacqueline Shaw, a
10 Lodi Zin grower, only 15 miles from the Rio Vista or the
11 proposed twin tunnels. My objective is that these are
12 timely, cost effective requests on the Sacramento Delta
13 for flows.

14 Dredging is for flows and less leaks.
15 Desalinization plus re-forestation with reservoirs and
16 ground water for food crops in the most fertile delta soil
17 in the world, not soil salinity. That was a brief
18 objective.

19 Now, stop expensive monstrous twin tunnels, the same
20 size as the tunnel between Britain and England. That's
21 along scenic Highway 160.

22 The tunnels mean taking water from fertile soil for
23 deserts, housing developments or fracking. Californians
24 are productive with water for prosperity.

25 On July 10th, 2015, the Central Valley Flood

22

1 Protection Board had to report on 80 percent
2 non-compliance. We can do that music comedian's
3 punctuation mark for the apostrophe. That is for levee
4 dredging maintenance for Sacramento Delta River.

5 Dredging is for flow, cost effective and solves
6 75 percent of the issues as stated by a levee engineer,
7 who said, he repaired all the levees over the years. He
8 had more comments, but my time is limited. It was
9 important. He said, soil actually purifies water with
10 aeration and absorption. Silt can be, you know,
11 re-arranged and offered other ways.

12 Desalinization has 15 points in California.
13 90 percent of Californians live 30 miles from the ocean,
14 and we need to include Bakersfield Basin has other options
15 besides taking our water.

16 If diversion is for desert housing to fracking
17 instead of Delta river farming, stop destructive
18 dust-making twin tunnels and mud slinging by five to ten
19 pumping intakes with the government diversions to a few in
20 semi-arid or coastal regions.

21 So I have a list of questions maybe I'll offer at
22 the Walnut Creek and in other correspondence -- Walnut
23 Grove.

24 Governor Brown's legacy will be salt marsh or
25 desalinization.

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1 COMMENT BY JANIS McLEAN

2

3 My name is Janis McLean. I live in Gold River,
4 California, which is part of Sacramento County. I have
5 strong connections to the Delta community.

6 My -- in addition to being shocked by the price of
7 the tunnels and the harm generally to the Delta, my
8 specific comment goes to the placement of the three
9 intakes within miles of each other between the towns
10 Freeport and Courtland.

11 These towns are -- there's four towns altogether,
12 Clarksburg, Freeport, Hood and Courtland, and they're
13 connected by a scenic road in between them. The towns
14 themselves are quite historical. They're involved
15 agricultural and recreational uses.

16 The road itself is gorgeous. It has miles of the
17 river -- the sparkling river being on one side of the
18 river -- or one side of the road with miles of pear
19 orchards on the other, and now, recently, we've had
20 wineries that have joined there.

21 The three tunnels will go between the towns of
22 Freeport and the town of Courtland. The board itself
23 acknowledges that these towns will be destroyed in the
24 making of the -- in the construction of these three
25 intakes during the construction period.

1 That it will be complete destruction of the town,
2 and complete economic destruction to them. Surely there
3 has to be a better way than all of this.

4 I also wonder whether anybody making any of these
5 decisions has even bothered to get in the car and drive
6 out and look at what they're about to destroy.

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1 COMMENT BY GARY TUCKER

2

3 I'm Gary Tucker, and I'm a resident of Discovery
4 Bay, California, and I own a home on the water on the
5 Delta waterway.

6 And I'm very concerned about the salinity in my
7 neighborhood after those tunnels are built. And I would
8 like some kind of assurance from my government that my
9 salinity and my property value will not be worsened by
10 these tunnels.

11 I've talked to everybody in this room just about,
12 and nobody here can show me what document guarantees that
13 my -- the salinity in my water in my back yard will not
14 increase at times because of the new tunnels.

15 So I would urge the state to publish some kind of
16 document showing that the water quality will not get worse
17 and decrease my property values. And again I find it in
18 none of the documents. Maybe it's buried there somewhere.

19 I'm very much against this project because it could
20 hurt me financially and certainly hurt California if the
21 salinity levels do go up in the waterway here. Thank you.

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1 COMMENT BY LUCAS STUART-CHILCOTE

2

3 Okay. My name is Lucas Stuart-Chilcote. I'm a
4 resident of Antioch, California right off of the San
5 Joaquin River, the heart of the Delta.

6 The Delta is a real strong heart to me, and it just
7 means a lot to the citizens of the area because it is how
8 we farm. We grow a lot of corn for the United States.

9 If the tunnels were to be formed, the water from the
10 sea would be being -- would be sucked in. So when that
11 water is being sucked out to go to southern California to
12 that Turlock station, the water that's going out is going
13 to bring in seawater.

14 And it's going to be destroying our estuary, the
15 fisheries that are barely even left and the farming
16 community too with the long generations that they've had
17 in their family.

18 And also -- the tunnels -- the canals that are --
19 that are being taken -- that are taking our water to
20 southern California, I talked to a citizen of San Diego
21 over the weekend. And they said, you guys are supplying
22 all of our water because of those canals. And I told him,
23 we're getting totally tired of it, and I told him straight
24 out.

25 And I said, desalinization plants are the answer.

27

1 The byproduct that's going into the ocean is horrible, but
2 we have to find a way of using that byproduct. The
3 concentrated salt that can mix with the seawater killing
4 the sea life.

5 We have to find a way to use that concentrated salt
6 in a different manner. Like how the engineers discovered
7 how to create a solar-powered car, or Google creating the
8 non-driver vehicle.

9 The canals -- I hear that desalinization plants cost
10 so much money to run. Cover the canals that are taking
11 the water right now to southern California with solar
12 panels to pay for the de-sal, and it will reduce the
13 evaporation from the sun, which is humongous. Thank you.

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1 COMMENT BY BILL RICS-KNIGHT

2

3 Hi, I'm Bill Rics-Knight. I live in Stockton. I
4 lived in the San Joaquin Valley pretty much since the 70s
5 except for the time out for the military and stuff like
6 that.

7 I've seen droughts come. I've seen droughts go.
8 I've seen reservoirs that were empty one day completely
9 filled two days later thanks to March Miracle rains. I've
10 seen Bakersfield buried under dust.

11 And it's all because we do not have a stable
12 reliable year-to-year water supply here in California.
13 When we draw water from the ground, some of it may filter
14 back in eventually, and those aquifers may recover a
15 little bit. But for the most part when we draw down the
16 aquifer, it's going to not have anywhere near the capacity
17 it did before.

18 100 years ago, the San Joaquin Valley and artesian
19 wells would flow several feet high in the central part of
20 the valley. That means that somebody would dig a hole in
21 the ground, and there would be water spouting over their
22 heads.

23 Well, that is long gone. And now, we have a certain
24 water problem, and we have lots of people that need it.
25 And if we continue to draw water from primary river

1 systems and divert it around the estuary we call the
2 Delta, eventually what's going to happen is brackish water
3 will come in from the San Francisco Bay, and vegetation
4 will slowly die off.

5 And eventually once all this vegetation has died off
6 because there is not enough flow to carry out debris, not
7 enough flow to carry out poisons, what will happen is it
8 will all be dead.

9 At which point, we might as well bring out concrete
10 trucks, pave the whole thing over, and rename it the San
11 Joaquin Pool.

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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX RECIRCULATED
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015
Sacramento, California

Reported by: KAREN A. URBANO, CSR License No. 6698, RPR

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1 COMMENT BY CHRISTINA FUGAZI

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3 So my name is Christina Fugazi. I'm the vice-mayor
4 for the city of Stockton. I'm here not only representing
5 myself but the citizens of Stockton who live along the
6 Delta.

7 I'm also a high school science teacher, and my
8 students are very, very concerned about not only the water
9 but the wildlife specifically. We have insects, birds,
10 fish that depend upon the environment that is currently
11 there.

12 These tunnels will not sustain the lifestyle and the
13 life that live there. This is very personal to me as my
14 great-great-grandfather, Bennedetto Ratto, settled in
15 Stockton in 1880.

16 He was a beaver trapper and lived on the Delta. But
17 it wasn't until Captain Charles Weber asked him to help
18 him with the channel that he settled in Stockton.

19 So you can provide all the reports that you want,
20 but there's nothing like actually living there. The
21 saltwater leaching in, the chemicals that we are then
22 subjected to because of these tunnels will be detrimental
23 to not only our health but the health of what lives there
24 in the Delta.

25 So it's my heartfelt plea that we look at

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1 alternatives outside of the tunnels.

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1 COMMENT BY JIM HALL

2

3 Okay. My name is Jim Hall. I live in Discovery
4 Bay. I am a California native.

5 My concerns are this study has not adequately
6 addressed the possibility of creating new water storage or
7 new water manufacturing.

8 With current technology and future technology, which
9 should be viewed, we should be able to create new water
10 for California and new storage systems that will possibly,
11 or at least more immediately, meet our needs rather than a
12 tunnel that does not create one drop of new water for
13 California. That's it.

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1 COMMENT BY JOAN JAVELOS

2

3 My name is Joan Javelos, and I am from Brentwood,
4 California, northern Brentwood, California.

5 And I am against the tunnels. For one, of the
6 devastation that it will do to the Delta with taking --
7 diverting water from north and pumping it to the south.

8 And, you know, with the pumping of the water that
9 goes south, there will not be the hydraulics of flushing
10 the Delta out of all of the pervasive weeds that have
11 started growing in there because of the drought and the
12 lack of water flow.

13 I am against the tunnels because of the devastation
14 it will do to Staten Island. I have worked on Staten
15 Island for many years being a meter reader for the public
16 utility here.

17 It is a very unique area to where thousands and
18 thousands and thousands of birds come and lay there over
19 the winter or pass through, and it is a very necessary
20 island. The Delta is very necessary for the flight plan
21 of the migratory birds.

22 And I am just against the tunnels. I was against
23 the Peripheral Canal when I was a kid. I'm against the
24 tunnels while I'm an adult. Thank you.

25

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1 COMMENT BY LUKE JOHNS

2

3 My name is Luke Johns. I am the president of the
4 Vista Del Lago High School fishing club.

5 We are currently being affected by the drought in
6 Folsom, where we fish, Folsom Lake, for the most part,
7 which is pushing us back to the Delta.

8 Now, with the Delta tunnels being a possibility
9 coming into the Delta, that would completely ruin our
10 fishery. And it would leave us with very little
11 possibilities to fish around the area, which would ruin
12 our club.

13 So we are very much against the tunnels, and "Save
14 The Delta." Thanks.

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1 COMMENT BY BARBARA DALY

2

3 My name is Barbara Daly. I'm from the California
4 Sacramento River Delta.

5 And there are better choices than the twin tunnels
6 to fix California's water issues. The California WaterFix
7 is a bad plan for Californians. It's an expensive plan
8 without a vote of the people, and it doesn't make any more
9 water for anyone.

10 To work to stop this and change it into a plan that
11 will work has been a full-time effort for me for the past
12 six years. This plan needs to be stopped and real
13 alternatives need to be vetted and seriously studied.
14 They're out there. Solutions are out there.

15 For instance, agriculture uses 80 percent of the
16 water in California now. Peter Gleick, G-L-E-I-C-K, a
17 professor from the Pacific Institute did a study about
18 five years ago.

19 When it was published, it concluded that if farmers
20 would use drip irrigation where appropriate on their crops
21 in California, we would save enough water to fill Hetch
22 Hetchy Reservoir 16 times every year.

23 There is also a concept of offshore desalinization
24 using wave action that has great potential for new water.
25 There are air-to-water generators being manufactured as we

1 speak. And they could be made on a large scale and
2 affordable. Every home could have their own potable
3 drinking water made from the air.

4 There are many such ideas being generated. These
5 are two avenues for new water sources. A scientist has
6 even discovered a source of prime area waters deep in the
7 earth. It could be tapped.

8 These are the answers. Not two tunnels that will
9 devastate farms in northern California and cause salmon
10 and steelhead to become extinct.

11 Jerry Brown, stop this madness and do the right
12 thing. No water tunnels in California.

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1 COMMENT BY KO

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3 So my name is KO. I'm from Walnut Creek,
4 California, and I'm very concerned about the Delta in
5 terms of the hydrology as it flushes down the bay.

6 If we have foul weather coming in from the ocean,
7 the flush of the bay at ebb tide can keep that front from
8 hitting us until the tide goes direct. Of course, any
9 sailor needs to know this and count on it, so they get
10 home safely.

11 But what it means is that storms coming in will hit
12 our Coastal Range harder and people that have houses on
13 the denuded Coastal Range.

14 The city of Oakland and Berkeley are chopping down
15 all the eucalyptus trees. Eucalyptus trees not only
16 provide year-long pollen and nectar for bees, but they
17 accumulate water and bring the moisture out of the air.
18 And that gives a lot of our flora in the East Bay a chance
19 to have moisture.

20 I have an orchard in Walnut Creek that's already
21 getting brackish water and ground water, and that's
22 killing the apricots. I have an orchard in Alameda County
23 that is on the coastal mountain range.

24 And with the threat of water level rising and then
25 more saltwater coming into the bay, I'm afraid I'm going

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1 to lose that orchard as well. So all these things are not
2 being considered additionally.

3 We know that the moisture in the ground lubricates
4 the faults, so that we don't have big earthquakes. One of
5 the reasons the 1906 earthquake was really big because it
6 was at the end of a big drought. That's why it was so
7 easy for the gold rush guys to find the gold.

8 So this project, if it reduces the flow of water,
9 not, you know, not the normal flow that they're counting
10 on, but the flow that's going to exist when we have this
11 huge drought that they're predicting that will start in
12 five years, that that amount of -- that lack of moisture
13 will help earthquakes happen.

14 And we don't need that either, if it can be
15 mitigated just by allowing the natural water flow to come
16 down the Delta. So that's another consideration that I
17 have.

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11 (NO ATTACHMENTS)

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1 COMMENT BY FRANK EGGER

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3 Frank Egger, 13 Meadow Way, Fairfax. I'm here today
4 as the president of the North Coast Rivers Alliance, a
5 river and salmon preservation, protection and restoration,
6 not for profit, with board members living in Santa Cruz,
7 Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.

8 The state of California has oversold available water
9 resources for decades. She has, in effect, been selling
10 paper water; and with this drought, the chickens have come
11 home to roost.

12 The Delta's smelt is all but extinct, and the
13 Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta chinook are on the
14 precipice of extinction. Governor Brown's originally
15 proposed tunnels would have devastated the remaining Delta
16 fisheries even with the full restoration program in the
17 BDCP.

18 Now that the restoration efforts, as called for in
19 the state legislation, have been jettisoned, we are
20 witnessing the beginning of the end of the native
21 fisheries in this estuary.

22 The state of California has all but abandoned the
23 California Environmental Quality Act in its rush to
24 approve the tunnels. First, using the Delta Stewardship
25 Council. And now, with an amendment that not only

1 side-steps the Delta Stewardship Council but makes a
2 mockery of the 2009 Delta Reform Act, in quotes, "coequal
3 goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem
4 restoration while protecting the Delta as a place."

5 By revising the project and adding 8,000 pages to
6 the official record of 40,000 pages, a 20 percent increase
7 in data by volume, you have drastically reduced the
8 previously approved mitigation measures, which was
9 insufficient at the time to save the Delta and her
10 fisheries and leaves the Delta chinook salmon nowhere to
11 go but extinct.

12 I urge the state of California to end this charade
13 now. Stop this project that will destroy the
14 Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, devastate the SFB
15 Estuary and drive Delta chinook to extinction. Thank you.

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BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN - 7/28/2015

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX RECIRCULATED
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015
Sacramento, California

Reported by: KAREN A. URBANO, CSR License No. 6698, RPR

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(NO ATTACHMENTS)

1 COMMENT BY BARBARA BARRIGAN-PARRILLA

2

3 Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director
4 Restore the Delta.

5 Gary Tucker, who is standing behind me, spent an
6 hour asking consultants today if more water would be taken
7 from The Delta with the Delta tunnels and if there would
8 be greater saltwater intrusion in Discovery Bay.

9 Every consultant downstairs told him that that would
10 not happen, that the water would not salt up, water
11 quality would be fine, and additional water would not be
12 taken from the system.

13 However, the EIR shows that there will actually be
14 more water taken from the system, and there will be
15 significant water quality impacts that are hidden in the
16 appendices throughout the 48,000 pages. That's the
17 original plan. The first EIR and the revised EIR.

18 We are highly disturbed that the proponents and BDCP
19 consultants are not being honest with the public about the
20 impacts of the project. We are upset that today at
21 Metropolitan Water District for their Bay Delta hearing,
22 they had a PowerPoint that showed with the Delta tunnels,
23 they will have additional significant amounts of water
24 during critically dry years like this year.

25 People selling the project to the public are not

1 being honest. It will destroy water quality for 4 million
2 people in the five Delta counties. It has to be stopped.

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1 COMMENT BY ESPERANZA VIELMA

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3 Hello, my name is Esperanza Vielma, and I am -- I
4 want to give a comment on behalf of the Restore the Delta,
5 and I want to speak on behalf of the environmental justice
6 community.

7 I feel that there isn't appropriate information
8 given out in various languages to the community that
9 represent the Delta Region and the various counties of
10 Sacramento and San Joaquin County. And we need to make
11 sure that the communities whom fish, live in the Delta are
12 able to have access to the public report that's made out
13 in means of the 40,000-page document.

14 So I feel that it's a disservice to our communities,
15 our EJ communities, in not being able to give them the
16 information in order for them to make adequate decisions
17 and know what's going on with their communities.

18 My family has been in the area for over three
19 generations and were unaware of what was taking place, and
20 they speak English. So for those who don't speak English,
21 I think it's a very difficult situation.

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1 COMMENT BY JOHN MINNEHAN

2

3 Okay. My name is John Minnehan. I'm from Lodi,
4 California. I grew up in Lodi and have been going to the
5 Delta with my family fishing, swimming, boating. I go out
6 kayaking sometimes.

7 And I really can't believe that this project has
8 even been proposed and why it's still on the table. I
9 find it very absurd and preposterous that such a calamity
10 of ideas would be thrown together to create a Bay Delta
11 Conservation Plan, which is a disaster plan.

12 I can't believe all these people in this room
13 support it. I really don't know how any logical person,
14 who thinks and uses their head and uses common sense, can
15 think that this can be a good project. It's absolutely
16 ridiculous. I can't -- in fact, I can't believe it. I
17 just can't believe it.

18 There are a lot of bad things going on in the world
19 right now, a lot of wars going on. Many people are
20 starving. Lots of terrorism.

21 Why do we have to have one more ridiculous thing
22 going on. This is totally absurd. The cost -- the cost
23 in money alone is enough. If California really knew what
24 it was going to cost, more people would be out here
25 protesting this thing.

45

1 They estimated in the ten, 12, \$15 billion, but I've
2 heard more realistic figures like in the \$60 billion
3 range. And I just can't see how -- I don't want to pay
4 that, and other taxpayers in California don't want to pay
5 it. Our future generations don't want to have to pay
6 that.

7 It's going to ruin the state. It's going to deplete
8 water resources. They'll be able to take as much water as
9 they want out of the Sacramento River. And it will ruin
10 the natural ecology of the freshwater coming through the
11 Sacramento-San Joaquin.

12 And the Sacramento River is not just one river.
13 It's a combination of many rivers flowing into that river.
14 So it isn't one river. It's many rivers.

15 And when we take that away, we take the lifeblood
16 out of the state. People in this room don't know what
17 kind of harm it's going to do. It's ridiculous. Is that
18 it. Thank you.

19 (Statement continuing)

20 Okay. People need water. We all need water. We
21 need to share the water that's in the state.
22 Unfortunately, this plan does not allow for saying where
23 the water will really go.

24 I'm all for the water going for the urban cities
25 down to the south, Santa Barbara, San Diego, L.A., San

1 Luis Obispo, provides water to many places. And I support
2 it for some agriculture but not to the extent of
3 agriculture -- big agri business, which consumes probably
4 most of the water out of the California Aqueducts and for
5 unsustainable crops, like almonds that get imported to
6 China.

7 I mean this is a nice idea, but we simply don't have
8 that much water. We need to make sure that everybody gets
9 water, not just the privileged few. And that people don't
10 abuse their water rights whether they're senior, junior or
11 anything.

12 They need to revamp the water regulations in the
13 state, so that it's a fair system. I don't believe that
14 it's a fair system now, and I don't believe that this plan
15 is going to alleviate that.

16 We need a plan that has logic and science. We have
17 all those things at our fingertips. Let's use it. Let's
18 do something that makes sense, not this ridiculous idea.

19 And I'd like to know who originally thought of this
20 idea. Was it Bozo or Goofy? Thank you.

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1 COMMENT BY JILL SHALLENBERGER

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3 Jill Shallenberger. I forgot that quickly. I don't
4 have a prepared statement, but I'm down here today on a
5 very hot day at the end of a day of work because I'm
6 distressed about the forward momentum on the tunnels plan.

7 I don't support it. I have been a long-time Jerry
8 Brown supporter, California native. At first when I heard
9 about the plan, I assumed -- I made a lot of assumptions
10 about it being the right thing to do because I put a lot
11 of faith in Jerry Brown's environmental priorities and
12 record.

13 But the more I have read, the less confident I feel.
14 I'm dismayed that he is pushing the plan as hard as he is.
15 It seems to provide essentially profit for the few at
16 great economic and environmental expense especially in the
17 Delta area.

18 I'm especially concerned about what I perceive to be
19 ruinous environmental consequences to this plan. I
20 don't -- yeah, that's all I've got.

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1 COMMENT BY PATRICK PORGANS

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3 My name is Patrick Porgans, and I'm a research
4 specialist. I've worked on water projects here in
5 California in the west in the last 40 years.

6 And I've done extensive water resource research in
7 California, 79 fact-finding volumes. And as part of
8 the -- excuse me -- Cadillac Desert, I mean I'm in that
9 book.

10 Anyway, what I'm here to say is we don't really need
11 this project. This plan is an extension of a plan they
12 started back in 1960 and promised to provide protections
13 for the Delta, water quality and for fish.

14 Well, they failed to do that, and they spent the
15 money on other things. They're coming back now telling us
16 we need this project, and I'm saying we don't. Because if
17 they take out another 140,000 acres of farmland for
18 wetlands restoration, that will give them about
19 2.8 million acre feet or as much as 3 -- excuse me --
20 280,000 to maybe 350,000 acre feet of additional water.
21 The department needs 450,000 acres. Okay. That's what
22 they need to firm the yield up.

23 So if they take those lands out, and they already
24 have 100,000 acres in state ownership. That means then
25 they have 240,000 acres. Do the math. That's three acre

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1 feet per acre, and you find that they're right at the
2 450,000 that they need.

3 So we don't need an additional project. We don't
4 need tunnels. We don't need reservoirs. We've got to
5 stop expanding agriculture. You know, from 2002 to 2012,
6 almonds alone increased by 40,000 acres a year. And in
7 2002, it was 440,000 acres. Then in 2012 it went to
8 880,000 acres.

9 That requires about 3.7 million acres feet of water
10 to do that. That's -- Metropolitan Water District in
11 southern California only provides 2.1 million acre feet to
12 all their customers.

13 So people are taking out their lawns, and they tell
14 us we've got a crisis when the State Water Project in the
15 last four years, you know, from 2011 to 2014, they ship
16 more water south than they had in the previous four years.

17 So and the department is the one that's writing this
18 report. They're the ones that are the broken promises,
19 and we can't expect them to come up with the solution to
20 the problem. And the reason why, they're the problem.

21 That's all I have to say today. Thank you so much.
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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

2) ss.

3 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO)

4 I, Karen A. Urbano, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
5 for the State of California, hereby certify that I was
6 present and reported in stenotype all the comments in the
7 foregoing-entitled matter; and I further certify that the
8 foregoing is a full, true, and correct statement of such
9 comments and a full, true, and correct transcript of my
10 stenotype notes thereof.

11 Dated at Sacramento, California, on Friday, July 31,
12 2015.

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KAREN A. URBANO, CSR 6698, RPR

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From: Humphrey, Shay
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 11:55 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: FW: Detour maps

Importance: High

From: Lastufka, Ken G@DOT [mailto:ken.lastufka@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 11:44 AM
To: info@BayDeltaConservationPlan.com
Subject: Detour maps
Importance: High

Hello:

Are there any maps/figures that show the detours around the Highway 160 intake sites? Please send me the link. Thanks.



Ken Lastufka
Associate Environmental Planner
Caltrans, District 3 South
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 274-0586
FAX (916) 274-0602

AUG 04 2015

7-29-15

Dear BDCP/ Water Fix,

As a long time Delta area resident I would like to express my very strong opposition to this twin tunnel project to ship water to Southern California. We have recently had Ocean salt water push back usable Delta water several miles due to less good water outflow to keep it back.

Shipping our water South will not solve the problem, the North doesn't have enough now for the farmers, Home Plants and trees

Or fish and wildlife habitat. Shipping south will only worsen it badly.

(cont.)



(2)

It seems to me the Tunnel money would be far better spent building Ocean Water desalination Plants. California is one of the lucky States with coastline our entire length and desalinate as much water as needed North-South and all inbetween. from now on. If there was sufficient rainfall we would not need to take ocean water that year.

Causing Problems for one Part of the state to send their water to another seems very unwise. The Damage to the Eco system in the north could and would be possibly unreparable and very costly in lost food production and the general economy.

Please Do Not
Pass this twin-Tunnels Project -
continue



(3)

This very very expensive Plan
that taxpayers will have to support
seems like robbing Peter to pay
Paul with poor poor results,
not fully solving the problem
for either and causing lots of
citizen anger and resentment.

Lets put that money where
it will give long lasting water
supply without counting on the rain.

Sincerely
Dorothy Mehrer



Mehrer

Dorothy Mehrer
511 E Locust St
Lodi, CA 95240

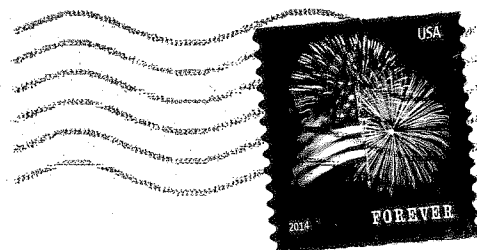
RECIRC344



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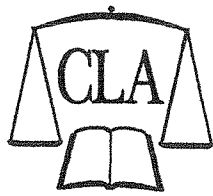
SACRAMENTO CA 957

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



**CALIFORNIA LAW ADVOCATES***"Promoting Citizen Awareness of the Law"*

AUG 04 2015

July 23, 2015

John Laird,

The environmental provisions
has been changed - this is wrong.
I would like to request a 180
day review.

The "twin tunnels" is a serious
problem for many.

A simple 45 days comment
period is inadequate, please
extend that comment period to
180 days.

Marilyn McDowell

From: Beverly Senior <racegirl7777@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 4:08 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: twin tunnels

I have been a resident of Woodbride CA right up against the east end of the Delta for 30 years. I oppose the twin tunnel project. If this project goes ahead I see damage to the Sacramento, Mokulumne , Consumnes and SanJoaquin Rivers. Vital flows thru the already stressed Delta will be diminished. Native salmon runs, already at all time lows will be further diminished if not wiped out. This project will greatly diminish if not destroy the delta's agricultural industry, sport fisheries and overall economic prosperity. Dress it up anyway you like (Delta Bay CONSERVATION- are you kidding me?!?) this a blatant water grab. Californians have already managed to hit the conservation mark. Let's try more of that before billions are spent on this boondoggle.

From: ruslemania@prodigy.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 11:57 AM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: Tunnels

THESE TUNNELS ARE A KNEE-JERK REACTION TO A COMPLEX PROBLEM. THE FEELING THAT WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING IS STRONG, BUT WE DON'T NEED TO DO SOMETHING WRONG! PLEASE STOP THE TUNNEL PLAN.

From: Cathy Palestro <twopals80@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 9:00 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: The Governor's latest plan to fix the Delta

Dear People,

My husband and I are very opposed to this latest plan to fix the Delta and build the twin tunnels to supply water to Southern California. Instead of building these tunnels which would destroy the fragile ecosystem of the Delta, we should be concentrating on desalination plants and other water-saving measures that will help all of us to ensure enough water for us and for future generations. With climate change raising the sea water levels, it makes sense to use the rising water levels to our advantage. furthermore, suppose the drought situation is here to stay. What good will those tunnels do if there's not enough water to ship south? Building the tunnels will hurt the Delta and Northern California.

Please consider what's good for all of California.

Sincerely,

Joseph and Catherine Palestro

L # 349

- ✓ Unused (replaces form)
- ☐ Duplicate of _____
- ☐ Out of Scope
- ☐ Other:

(replace original)

From: Humphrey, Shay
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 3:26 PM
To: BDCPcomments
Subject: FW: SF Bay and Delta
Attachments: 1-s2.0-S2352485515000225-main.pdf

SHAY HUMPHREY

shay.humphrey@icfi.com
661.304.5839 (m)

From: Iida, Jennifer@DWR [mailto:Jennifer.Iida@water.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 3:25 PM
To: info@baydeltaconservationplan.com
Subject: SF Bay and Delta

FYI

From: Wilson, Ed@DWR
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Iida, Jennifer@DWR
Subject: FW: SF Bay and Delta

From: John Briggs [mailto:clingfishes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Wilson, Ed@DWR
Subject: SF Bay and Delta

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am a certified fishery biologist (American Fisheries Society) and I have recently published a review of restoration progress in San Francisco Bay. You may be interested in a copy of my review because it includes a recommendation about the twin tunnels project and the present state of the Delta.

Best wishes, John C. Briggs, Ph.D.



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San Francisco Bay: Restoration progress

John C. Briggs*

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA

HIGHLIGHTS

- Notable watershed improvements were accomplished beginning in the 1960s.
- Some 240 exotic invaders added biodiversity without loss of native species.
- Overfishing of the apex predators has interfered with ecosystem productivity.
- Ecosystem management using marine protected areas is recommended.
- Plan to divert water from the Sacramento River instead of the Delta, is endorsed.

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ABSTRACT

Beginning in the 1960s, San Francisco Bay progressed from an odiferous garbage pit to a scenic bay with clear water, attractive public recreation areas, and improved bird and mammal habitat. The change was made possible by local public support with aid from state and federal agencies. However, the aquatic life, once characterized by huge salmon runs, and productive fisheries for sardines, herring, sturgeon, striped bass, oysters, and shrimp, has failed to respond. We now have only small remnants of those once abundant populations. The bay still has contaminants that date from the garbage pit days, but they are evidently not the primary factor that has prevented aquatic recovery. As the human population has grown larger so has the sport fishing pressure. Consequently, large-size predators are few with little influence on the lower trophic levels. In order to permit a recovery of the aquatic ecosystem, it is recommended that a substantial part of the bay be designated as a no-take, marine protected area (MPA) where the apex predators can grow to their optimum sizes and can influence the establishment of a more productive ecosystem. The ecology of the bay would benefit from a plan to divert water southward from the Sacramento River instead of the Delta.

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1. Introduction

Although estuaries had received some attention with the establishment of the US National Estuary Program in 1987, restoration work received a major impetus in the year 2000 when the

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US Congress approved The Estuary Restoration Act (ERA). This act made the restoration of estuaries a national priority and involved five federal agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the US Army. In 2007, the ERA was modified and significant funds were allocated for fiscal years 2008–2012 in order to carry out restoration projects. In addition to the federal agencies, coastal states, municipalities, and conservation organizations have initiated estuarine recovery projects. The ultimate goals of estuarine recovery are the restoration of balanced and productive food webs, as well as the establishment of safe and esthetic environments for human occupation. Although considerable progress has been made, none of the large estuaries in the US have made a complete recovery. In most locations, habitat improvement, pollution control, and fishery management still constitute major problems to be solved.

Within estuaries, salt marshes have been particularly susceptible to invading organisms because most of them have been extensively altered by habitat conversion. More than 50% of the original tidal salt marsh in the United States has been lost through physical alterations such as dredging and filling (Kennish, 2001). Compared to open coasts, a much higher number and proportion of exotic species are found in estuaries, including associated salt marshes (Byers, 2009). In Elkhorn Slough, California, Wasson et al. (2005) identified 526 invertebrate species comprised of 443 natives, 58 exotics, and 25 cryptogens (species of unknown origin). The surrounding rocky intertidal open coast contained 588 species, of which only 8 were exotic and 13 cryptogenic. Similarly, more than 240 invasive species are known from San Francisco Bay but fewer than 10 are found on the outer coast (Ruiz et al., 1997). From a global perspective, the large numbers of invasive species in estuaries have caused many ecosystem changes, disadvantageous as well as advantageous, but have not caused the global extinction of any native species (Briggs, 2012).

The evident causes of low native populations are overexploitation, habitat destruction, and pollution (Lotze et al., 2006). Many natural estuaries and bays have been physically altered by dredging and by seawall, bridge, and other construction. Because such areas tend to have concentrated human populations, they are likely to have been impacted by increased pollution (organic and inorganic) and overfishing. Once the native populations have been reduced by these changes, resistance to invasion is reduced as well, and the areas become invaded by organisms that can tolerate the physical environment (Reise et al. 2006). This cause and effect has been noted to occur on the global scale (Byrnes et al., 2007). In harbors, many such organisms are introduced via ship traffic and thrive due to the increased nutrients. In these highly invaded areas, it is human activities, not the invaders, that have caused the depletion of native populations (Lotze et al., 2006).

2. San Francisco Bay

From a geological viewpoint, San Francisco Bay (SF Bay) is of recent origin. Its formation began at the end of the Ice Age about 10,000 years ago. As the continental glaciers melted, the sea level rose and oceanic waters began to penetrate the Golden Gate canyon. Within the next 5000 years, the bay was almost completely formed and the tidal marshes began to spread out. The present size of the SF Bay is 1235 km² (Rosenfield and Baxter, 2007). One hundred fifty years ago, about 220,000 ha (one hectare = 100 m by 100 m) of tidal marshes, including 80,000 ha of salt marsh, fringed the bay (Williams and Faber, 2001). The progressive diking and filling of more than 90% of these marshes led to widespread public concern and environmental activists succeeded in having the first wetlands protection legislation enacted in the United States

in 1966. This legislation prevented any further filling of tidal wetlands in the salt water regions of the estuary. Following this success, plans were proposed to reverse the environmental damage by restoring the wetlands. The first project was implemented in 1972, and since that time many other projects have been carried out by various government and conservation agencies. A total of approximately 2000 ha of former tidal marsh had been restored by 2001. The first years of restoration were strongly influenced by research from the US east coast that emphasized the vast productivity of cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) (Odum, 1961; Garbisch, 1977).

Spartina alterniflora is noted for its capacity as an environmental engineer. It grows out into the water at the seaward edge of a salt marsh, and accumulates sediment that enables other engineering species, such as mussels, to settle. The accumulation of sediment gradually builds up the level of the land at the seaward edge and other high-marsh species move onto the new land. As the marsh accretes, *S. alterniflora* moves still farther out to form a new edge. In 1973, *S. alterniflora* was planted in SF Bay by the US Army Corps of Engineers in an attempt to reclaim marsh land (Callaway and Josselyn, 1992). Subsequently, three more exotic species of *Spartina* (*S. densiflora*, *S. patens*, and *S. angelica*) were introduced. *S. alterniflora* soon became widespread in S.F. Bay and began impinging on the mud flats that were feeding grounds for birds. As a result, *S. alterniflora* became considered a destructive invader and public funds were devoted to its eradication. Furthermore, *S. alterniflora* was found to hybridize with the native *S. foliosa* and the hybrid populations have spread rapidly (Ayres et al., 1999, 2004).

During the removal of the invasive *Spartina*, between 2005 and 2011, populations of the endangered California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*) in SF Bay declined by nearly 50%, apparently due to the reduction of the *Spartina* cover that provided nesting and foraging habitat. Accordingly, about 8% of the originally invaded area was left intact and sprigs of the native *Spartina* were planted where the invasive species had been removed. Thus began a gradual management program by which the invasive plants were removed as the native plants grew large enough to provide cover for the clapper rails (Lampert et al., 2014).

3. Oyster industry

The early history of the bay oyster industry is reviewed by Barrett (1963) and more recent developments are discussed by Okamoto and Wong (2011). The native Olympia oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) was once exceedingly common, as indicated by the 15 thousand tons of oyster shells that are dredged out of the bay each year. Remnant living populations still exist in the bay but present conditions of disturbance and pollution seem to be unsuitable for recovery, even though attempts are being made. In other parts of the world where native oyster populations have been severely compromised, restoration has not usually been possible and other species have been introduced (Ruesink et al., 2005). In the early days, the larger, eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) was preferred by seafood buyers and shellfish farmers responded. Beginning about 1875, seed oysters were shipped by rail from the east coast and planted in the south bay. The new industry thrived and, by the 1890s, it had become the most valuable fishery in the State, with harvests up to 15 million pounds per year. But the rise in pollution from untreated sewage and other sources began to have its effect. By the 1930s, most of the industry had moved to the cleaner waters of Bodega and Tomales bays.

4. Contaminants

More than any other factor, the aquatic resources of SF Bay are dependent on the quality of its water. Prior to the 1970s, the bay was subjected to an increasing load of contaminants

from a variety of sources: raw sewage entered from about 80 different outlets, municipal garbage was routinely dumped in the bay, industrial chemical waste was added, fruit canneries in the south bay liberated their waste, and the widespread use of DDT and PCBs resulted in a buildup of these substances. By the early 1970s, the bay was absorbing 786 million gallons of waste from municipalities and industries every day (Okamoto and Wong, 2011). The bay shores, with their piles of garbage and other debris, were unattractive and the odor, particularly at low tide, was offensive. Pollution control efforts began in 1969 with the passage of the State's Porter-Cologne Act which established water quality controls. This was followed by the federal Clean Water Act of 1972. These laws produced rapid improvements made possible by huge investments in the treatment of waste water and the control of other contaminants. Surface runoff has been a problem, but several cities have constructed pond areas to accept storm water rather than letting it flow directly into the bay.

5. Changes for the better

The changes that have occurred in the bay since 1970 are truly remarkable. Today, the water in most areas is a translucent blue instead of brown and the offensive smell is gone. There has been a determined effort to clean up the shore lines and to establish trails and access to beaches for recreation. The bayshore has become an attractive place and there are now hotels, apartment houses and private residences located at the water's edge. While most of the water quality improvement can be attributed to pollution control, some of it has been fortuitous. In the mid-1980s, a clam (*Corbula amurensis*) native to the Amur River (that runs between China and Russia) was evidently liberated from a ship when it discharged its ballast water (Carlton and Ruiz, 2005). The clam, a small species about 24 mm in diameter, locally called the "over bite clam", spread rapidly and soon became the dominant member of the bottom fauna, especially in the North Bay where salinity tended to be lower than in the other regions (Nicolini and Penry, 2000). This species, due to its high filtering rate, has caused a major ecological change by depressing phytoplankton blooms and improving water transparency. In addition, the clam and other filtering organisms were found to remove and bury excess nitrogen and phosphorus (Lonsdale et al., 2009). Dissolved inorganic nitrogen and phosphate from municipal waste water occur at higher levels in SF Bay than in other US bays (Cloern and Jassby, 2012).

Another ecological effect of the Amur clam, and probably other bivalves, has been the uptake and retention of selenium (Se), a trace element that occurs in irrigation drainage from the Central Valley. Se is also absorbed by several crustacean species but they do not retain it nearly as long as the bivalves. Several species of bivalves have tissue concentrations of Se that exceed thresholds thought to be associated with teratogenesis or reproductive failure (Stewart et al., 2004). In the bay, two bivalve predators, the white sturgeon and a diving duck (scoter) demonstrated high Se concentrations, but other predators were less affected. Experiments with lesser scaup ducks (Richman and Lovvorn, 2004) have indicated that the Amur clam is a more valuable food source than the native clam (*Macoma balthica*).

Water transparency is important in shallow bays because it permits light to penetrate to the bottom where it can stimulate the growth of eel grass and other plant life. This kind of primary production initiates a food chain that contributes to the diversity of benthic animal life. The Amur clam is said to be capable of filtering most of the bay water once a day (Carlton and Ruiz, 2005). The phytoplankton consumed by the clams is also a food source for zooplankton that, in turn, feeds small fishes and other pelagic organisms. Some critics have pointed to the Amur clam as the cause for the decline of fish populations. But the clam is only one of

many factors that may contribute to the decline (Rosenfield and Baxter, 2007; Sommer et al., 2007). It appears that the main control over the phytoplankton blooms is the presence of ammonium (NH_4) which prevents the uptake of nitrate (NO_3) (Dugdale et al., 2007). The nitrate is essential for phytoplankton growth. In fact, blooms take place only when the ammonium concentration is unusually low. This means that food chain for small fishes and other planktivorous feeders can operate effectively only when the ammonium concentration is diluted by precipitation and runoff, an unusual condition for most of the year. The ammonium source is primarily anthropogenic, from agricultural drainage and sewage treatment plants.

The Amur clam soon proved to be a food source for various predators (flatfishes, sturgeon, ducks, crabs). Beginning in 1999, these predators greatly reduced the clam and other bivalve populations, thereby lowering filtering capacity and allowing modest plankton blooms (Cloern et al., 2007). Much of the predator influx came from the ocean where increased cold and upwelling permitted good recruitment of young fishes and crustaceans that entered the bay with the tidal flows. However, it has also been pointed out that proliferation of the Amur clam, and changes in the plankton abundance and composition, coincided with an extended drought and low-flow, high-salinity conditions (Winder and Jassby, 2010).

6. Remaining problems

Although SF Bay is now much healthier due to sewage treatment, prohibition of bay filling, and control of destructive plankton blooms, there are still problems that need to be addressed. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SF partnership, 2011) produces regular scorecards on the ecological state of the bay. The bottom sediments contain metals from industrial processes, DDT and PCBs, and methyl mercury. Innocuous inorganic mercury is converted by benthic organisms into toxic methyl mercury (Ikingura and Akagi, 1999). Disturbance of the sediments by dredging or water currents can make the toxins more available to plant life (Frank and Arnot, 2010). These substances are absorbed by plants and passed up through the food chain to become more concentrated as they ascend to higher levels. The greatest concentration of PCBs has been found in the harbor seals (Gobas and Arnot, 2010). California Division of Fish and Game has placed weekly limits on human consumption of bay fishes based on content of methyl mercury. In recent years, the commercial landings of all species have been declining. At present, none of the bay fishes are caught commercially with the exception of the Pacific herring at times when its population appears sufficiently large. There is an active sport fishery that targets salmon, steelhead, halibut, sturgeon, rockfish, sharks, striped bass, and several smaller species.

7. Recovery status

Progress has been made on several fronts. In 2005, the invasive cordgrass (*Spartina* sp.) occupied a total of 2000 acres; by 2008, eradication had reduced the infestation to about 500 acres (Grijalva, 2008). As noted, the remainder of the invasive cordgrass will be removed gradually as new habitat is provided for the endangered clapper rails. A major restoration project currently underway involves the conversion of 15,000 acres of former salt ponds into marsh land. The 65 ponds in the south bay had been used as evaporation basins for salt production. Their conversion to salt marsh will amount to a significant addition to the total area of marsh land with its fish and wildlife habitat (Stralberg et al., 2005). Over the years, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) has opened up the bay shore. Today, the public can visit over 300 miles of shoreline with its 135

parks. There will soon be a 400 mile recreational trail extending along all of the bay shoreline.

It has taken 40 years to convert the bay from a garbage pit and waste disposal area to a cleaner, attractive body of water that supports human recreation and a diversity of wildlife. The conversion had its origin with the "Save the Bay" organization that was started in 1961 by three Berkeley women, Kay Kerr, Esther Gulick, and Sylvia McLaughlin, who had become alarmed at Berkeley's and the Army Engineers' plans to fill in large portions of the bay. Save the Bay organization eventually developed into the BDCD. Public interest in bay restoration stimulated the organization of private conservation groups, and several state and federal agencies have since become involved in conservation planning.

Although SF Bay, with its more than 240 exotic species (Cohen and Carlton, 1998), is probably the world's most invaded estuary, none of the native species have been lost and they have apparently adapted to the invaders by means of accommodation. Accommodation refers to the behavior of native species when faced with competition by invasive species from more diverse regions. The natives are not eliminated by such competition but are forced to provide space or physical support to the invaders (Briggs, 2010). Additions of the exotic species have increased the biodiversity of the bay. Despite the inclusion of a few objectionable species, such as *Spartina alterniflora*, the enriched biodiversity has contributed to the formation of a more stable and resilient ecosystem.

An analysis of the ecological changes that have taken place in the SF Bay over the past 40 years has been published by Cloern and Jassby (2012). They identified six drivers of change: (1) water consumption and diversion, (2) modification of the sediment supply, (3) introduction of nonnative species, (4) sewage input, (5) environmental policy, and (6) climate shifts. While all six certainly had some influence, they are not all equal. Foremost is the factor of freshwater consumption and diversion. The confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers takes place in an area called the Delta. This is where water is diverted to other parts of the State before the remaining flow enters SF Bay. There is a continuing problem of maintaining a sufficient flow into the bay to support a low salinity area for species adapted to that habitat, and to permit the passage of salmon, steelhead trout, and other euryhaline species. On the other hand, there is an increasing demand of water for the Central Valley farms and for municipalities in southern California. The State has been hesitant about solving this conflict (Hanemann and Dyckman, 2009).

8. Discussion

San Francisco Bay receives runoff from the Sierras, from a huge area of farm land in the California Central Valley, and from numerous urban and suburban areas. Until the early 1970s, the bay water was turbid and odiferous due to large amounts of decaying organic matter. But today, although turbidity due to inorganic sediment is still a problem in the northern bay, the water is more transparent, the offensive smell is gone, and the bay shores have become popular recreation areas. This dramatic change was brought about by two principal factors: (1) a restoration program involving prohibition of bay filling, construction of municipal sewage plants, and a concerted effort to clean up the bay shores; and (2) through the fortuitous effect of certain invaders. Among the more than 240 invader species in the SF Bay, are 10 species of clams and mussels and several species of filter-feeding polychete worms (Carlton and Ruiz, 2005). The most important of these is a small clam (*Corbula amurensis*) introduced from Asia by ship traffic in 1985.

The Amur clam proved to be highly prolific and within two years became the dominant benthic organism. This species is

estimated to filter and clear most of the bay water on a daily basis (Carlton and Ruiz, 2005). It not only clears the water but can remove and bury the excess nitrogen and phosphorus (Lonsdale et al., 2009). It can siphon plankton from the water faster than other clams, anchor itself using byssal threads, and withstand wide variations in salinity. Furthermore, it has stomach enzymes capable of digesting bacteria, shells that resist crab predation, and the ability to reproduce when just a few months old (Nicolini and Penry, 2000). It has been noted (Briggs, 2012) that filter organisms resistant to pollution, such as some of those in San Francisco Bay, could be introduced to other bays in order to clear the water and produce similar benefits.

As noted in Section 7, there has been a long-term conflict over water diversion from the Delta and the problem of maintaining a sufficient flow into the bay to support a low salinity area for species adapted to that habitat, and to permit a safe passage for salmon and trout. An online advisory, published by the Center for Watershed Sciences, University of California at Davis (UC Davis, 2015) has recounted a brief history of the Delta region and has urged a solution. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the extensive marsh habitat of the Delta was drained and converted to farms, with levees to keep out the tides. Following land conversion, oxidation of the peat soils led to subsidence of the new land, requiring continuous expansion of the levees to reduce flooding. Today, most of the Delta lies well below sea level, and is protected by 1100 miles of levees that, over time, have become less effective. Local and widespread levee failures have been caused by continued subsidence, sea level rise, changing inflows, and earthquakes. The advisory concluded that a static, freshwater Delta is no longer sustainable and there is a high likelihood of significant disruption of the State's water supplies. There is currently a proposal to divert water from the Sacramento River at an upland site above the Delta and send it to the southern parts of the State by means of tunnels and canals. This project could allow the Delta to be converted back to a marsh habitat, with an obvious benefit to fish and wildlife production. Species that need a low salinity environment would thrive in the expanded area. Adult salmon and steelhead trout would be able to reach the main rivers without contending with diversions, and the young fishes would be able to migrate seaward without the mortality caused by screens and pumps. The renewed marshland would also be a haven for birds and mammals.

There has been some concern that the numerous dams on the rivers and tributaries, that comprise the SF Bay watershed, have diminished the sediment transported into the bay (Cloern and Jassby, 2012). But, in terms of water quality, the slowdown of sediment deposition in the bay appears to be a welcome development. In regard to the other drivers of change, the effects of sewage input and introduction of nonnative species have already been discussed. Climate shifts have been and will be important; global warming has caused a current drought that may affect the State for many years, and will place even greater demands on the freshwater supplies.

Although restoration efforts in SF Bay have made impressive progress, there is still a long way to go before the goal of a balanced and productive ecosystem can be reached. Because it is an estuary, fed by nutrients supplied by the runoff from about 40% of California's land surface, the bay is capable of supporting a much larger production of species at the higher trophic levels. Okamoto and Wong (2011) have called attention to the enormous productivity in past years. About 150 years ago, annual runs of more than two million chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) traversed the bay on their way to spawning streams in the Sierras. By 1882, 20 salmon canneries producing 200,000 cases per year lined the banks of the Sacramento River. The spawning streams are now mostly restricted by dams; but hatcheries, theoretically capable of maintaining large populations, have been built to mitigate the restrictions.

However, the migrating salmon must run the gamut of commercial fishing in the ocean and sport fishing in the bay and rivers, as well as the hazards of low water levels, pollution, and water diversions.

In addition to the salmon, the bay once produced more than 15 million pounds of oysters per year, and huge quantities of shrimp, sardines and herring. Dungeness crab continues to be a large fishery but most of the catch now comes from the ocean beyond the bay. As noted, striped bass were imported in 1879 and soon sustained a commercial catch of more than 450 tons per year. Besides the aquatic productions, the bay supported millions of waterfowl. In the early 1900s, over 200,000 wild ducks were sold annually in San Francisco markets. These indications of past bounty suggest that the modern bay, with its improved water quality, should be capable of a much greater production.

9. Aquatic management

An article on the degradation and recovery potential of estuaries and coastal seas, using SF Bay as one of 12 case studies, was published by Lotze et al. (2006). The authors emphasized that exploitation, mainly by overfishing, was the causative agent for 95% of species declines and 96% of local extinctions in their study systems, followed by habitat destruction. No decline or extinction was caused by invasive species or climate change. In estuaries, the effects of overfishing, pollution, and habitat degradation are magnified because space is relatively limited. This means that native species may suffer disproportionately and offer less opposition to invaders. In most estuaries, the large apex predators have been overfished resulting in trophic cascades that affect the entire ecosystem (Terborgh and Estes, 2010).

SF Bay, where there are large numbers of low-trophic-level invaders, presents a conservation challenge. The large populations of invaders should comprise an attractive food source for upper-level consumers. But the latter cannot thrive without protection from overfishing. The primary apex predator is the striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), a species that was introduced from the East coast in 1879 (Nichols et al., 2007). This species flourished and yielded annual catches of more than 450 tons between 1889 and 1915. But the striped bass population sharply declined and commercial fishing was disallowed. Even so, the decline continued and survey results from 1967 to 2002 showed another precipitous drop in abundance (Feyrer et al., 2007). The survey also indicated steep population declines in two other species, threadfin shad and the delta smelt. Those two are small fishes that did not suffer from overfishing but declined for unknown reasons. Other large predators evidently overfished are sharks, halibut and sturgeon. There is strong scientific support for ecosystem-based management on the US west coast (Lester et al., 2010). As observed by Palumbi et al. (2009), a management system that conserves biodiversity can be broadly beneficial to a wide spectrum of important ecosystem services, including fisheries, water quality, recreation, and shoreline protection. This kind of management system involves interactions between ecological and social systems of communities that are interested in the health of their marine areas (Leslie and McLeod 2007).

An ecosystem-based management program, as outlined by Pauly (2009), should provide a significant boost to the aquatic production of the SF Bay. This means that an appreciable area, perhaps as much as 50% of the bay, should be included in a no-take, marine protected area (MPA). The MPA should extend outward beyond the bay entrance to encompass part of the region utilized by migratory species that use the bay for part of their life cycles, and it should encompass enough of the low-salinity area to protect organisms adapted to that habitat. The presence of a large-size predator, such as the striped bass, has importance beyond the prevention of trophic cascades. Work by Berkeley et al. (2004) indicates that

larval viability varies with age and that larvae produced by larger (older) adults have increased survival. Selective harvesting of older individuals leads to an exponential reduction in the number of larvae produced, a shortening of the reproductive season, a decrease in larval viability, and a selection for reproduction at a younger age. In response to these reproductive and genetic effects, the body size of fishes has consistently declined under fishing pressure, even in situations where total diversity (species richness) has remained high (Birkeland and Dayton, 2005). Size-selective fishing may impact ecosystems more rapidly and more profoundly than declines in species richness (Fisher et al., 2010). The practical way to control size-selective fishing is to create effective MPAs so that individuals can grow to their optimum size and reproductive efficiency (Stobart et al., 2009); adjoining areas often benefit from the spread of large fishes from the MPAs.

10. Conclusions

In SF Bay, restoration projects beginning in the 1970s have made significant progress. The bay water is now relatively clean and has become popular for boating and swimming. About 15,000 acres of former salt ponds are being converted back to salt marsh with native vegetation. The additional habitat will be beneficial to the shore birds and mammals, as well providing nursery grounds for young fishes. Most of the invasive cordgrass has been removed, which has allowed more space for the shellfish and other organisms that occupy the intertidal mudflats. The bay shores have been cleaned of debris and the public now has access to 300 miles of shoreline with its 135 parks.

Life in the aquatic habitat has been slow to respond to the improvement in water quality. Part of the difficulty is attributable to the bottom sediments that still contain metals from industrial processes, DDT and PCBs, and methyl mercury. Another part appears to be the continuing high levels of ammonium (NH_4) in the bay water. The presence of ammonium, from human and livestock sources, prevents the uptake of nitrate (NO_3) by phytoplankton. Nitrate is essential for phytoplankton growth and those organisms constitute the primary production level, the first step in the marine food chain. If there were some means of controlling the excess ammonium that is being carried into the bay, production at all levels of the ecosystem would benefit.

It has been demonstrated that most large estuaries, including SF Bay, are unproductive due to human exploitation, primarily overfishing of the aquatic resources. In SF Bay, commercial fishing is not allowed but sport fishing is a large enterprise. This kind of fishing selectively removes the largest and oldest individuals among the apex predators. It has been found that reproductive efficiency and body sizes consistently decline under fishing pressure. The striped bass is an example of an apex predator that was formerly abundant but has been reduced to a smaller population with smaller individual sizes. There is also considerable fishing pressure on other large predators such as the sharks, halibut, and sturgeon. The job of an apex predator is to control the numbers of the meso-predators, the next lower level in the food chain. Excess numbers of the smaller meso-predators can raise havoc with and destroy the productivity of the lower levels of the ecosystem. A marine protected area (MPA) with sufficient space can allow the apex predators to attain the individual sizes and numbers necessary to control the system within the MPA and improve its productivity. Where this has been done, the improved biodiversity has generally spread into the adjacent areas. For these reasons, it is suggested that large parts of the bay, at least 50% in total, be included in an MPA where the apex predators can proliferate, grow to larger sizes, and accomplish their job.

While water quality improvement and the establishment of an MPA are both important factors for the future, there is a third

project that could be of equal importance. The California Delta at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers was originally a tidal marshland, through which freshwater passed before reaching SF Bay. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the marsh was drained, converted to farmland, and the farms were protected by a series of levees. Within that area, the State built a system of pumps and canals in order to divert freshwater to the Central Valley and to parts of southern California. Today, the Delta covers 52,000 acres of farm land that is protected by 1100 miles of levees. Oxidation of the peat soil has resulted in subsidence so that the land lies well below sea level.

An advisory from the University of California at Davis points out that the continued subsidence, rising sea level, threat of earthquakes, and frequent levee failures indicate that disruption of the State's major water supply is highly likely, and that the Delta is no longer sustainable in its present form. A solution to the Delta problem, now under discussion, is the plan to divert water directly from the Sacramento River at an upland location north of the Delta. This plan would protect the main water source of the State and would present an opportunity to let the Delta revert to the original marsh land. Recovery of the marsh habitat would be a boon to the fishes, birds, and other aquatic life.

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