



As you know, the State Water Resources Control Board is tasked with restoring and protecting water quality in the Delta! Unfortunately, the Board's Water Quality Control Plan has allowed more than half the water that would naturally flow into the Delta to be diverted away for largely unsustainable agriculture. Because of these diversions, both the water quality and the ecology of the Delta have been seriously compromised.

Here we see another situation in which rather than improving existing water infrastructure, government tends to propose new and very expensive supplemental alternatives. As we all know, all sorts of inefficiencies and leaks in the existing system contribute to wasting vast amounts of precious water. Improving unlined ditches and phasing out spray sprinklers alone would save millions of gallons of water. Covering large canals, ideally with solar arrays, would also save millions of gallons from evaporation. Using drip systems rather than flooding entire crop rows is another cost-effective improvement that would reduce salinization, a major problem for any irrigated agriculture.

Better water management solutions do exist. The State of California needs to pursue them.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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