

TESTIMONY STATEMENT RICHARD E. MARSHALL

To: CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

RE: CALIFORNIA WATERFIX

Hearing in the Matter of California Department of Water  
Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Request for a Change in Point of Diversion for California  
Water Fix  
Testimony of Richard E. Marshall

The issues surrounding massive diversions from the Sacramento River continue to amaze those of us that live, work and are knowledgeable about the river and its flows. We continue to be amazed that the idea from hell, engineered on a wish and supported by those who legitimately need a more reliable water source, doesn't die.

The project needs to stop to conserve funds presently being wasted on staff and planning, and redirected to research areas that will solve the problem.

The present proposal will not have sufficient water available to feed it in most years. This fact, based upon DWR sources, leads those of us who have a senior water right and riparian water rights to conclude that the only way these tunnels can be filled is to divert water from the senior and riparian right holders. This will not happen.

Furthermore, the State has not been able to abide by the terms of the North Delta Water Contract many times over the past decade. The driver to the contract is water conductivity readings at Emmaton. Unable to comply, an agreement was reached to move the sampling station to Three Mile Slough several miles upstream. Now, the tunnels will divert more water out of the Sacramento River. You don't need a degree in engineering to conclude that this will move the salinity point

further upstream. The North Delta Water Users, of which I am one, find this unacceptable.

Many diversions from the river are through siphon pipes, the cheapest way to move water. As river levels drop, the effectiveness of these siphons will drop, reducing the water available to the users.

As water availability decreases, farms will have more difficult times being profitable. As profits drop, jobs are lost. As jobs are lost ancillary businesses lose customers and the incumbent profits. As businesses fail, less jobs are available. All this points to less population in the Delta. Currently there are about 1,500 people just in the Clarksburg postal area.

When the population drops, causing mostly young people and their families to relocate, there are fewer children in the communities and the schools. Currently River Delta School District struggles to find funding to attract good teachers and staff. With less student population comes less funding for the school which paints a dismal picture for the school.

Furthermore, all of this information is on record numerous times in public testimony, time and time and time again. We are the volunteer, unpaid Davids fighting the super funded State of California. We don't have paid staff, we have businesses we are trying to run, and yet this project won't go away. The project from Hell that needs to die. I ask that you mercifully do the right thing and conclude the obvious, critical funds need to be redirected to areas that can yield a product of substance that everyone can support and get behind, one that can be the modern alchemy for making water from dust. I ask the State to look further into water recycling and finding an inexpensive, energy efficient and environmentally friendly method to desalinate.

I thank the committee for your time and pray for your attention to the message brought forward yet one more time.

Sincerely,  
Richard E. Marshall