

October 21, 2015

BDCP/California WaterFix Comments

P.O. Box 1919

Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Oppose the Delta Tunnels/California Water Fix (Alternative 4A)

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Delta Tunnels plan.

In The Delta Reform Act of 2009, the California State Legislature committed to “coequal goals” of providing a more reliable water supply for California, as well as protecting and restoring the cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta. Unfortunately, the intent of this legislation cannot be achieved if the Delta Tunnels come to pass.

Not only does the California Water Fix fail to meet the restoration goals of the Delta Reform Act, it will not be able to provide more reliable water, because the Delta watershed is already oversubscribed by five times its capacity in normal water years.

The plan also fails to address potential environmental, public health or economic impacts of the proposed Delta tunnels project, and has ignored proposed alternatives that would save California tax and ratepayers billions of dollars, while investing in the jobs and local water sources that would build sustainability.

For large metropolitan cities such as Los Angeles and San Jose that depend on export water, water rates and/or property taxes will go up, but they will get no additional water.

No analysis has been done on how the lack of fresh water flows will impact San Francisco Bay tourism and recreation. These industries depend on Delta fresh water flows for their crab and salmon fisheries, wildlife sighting, boating, and their restaurant economy. This industry is worth billions annually.

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

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Far less expensive and less environmentally destructive alternatives to the Delta Tunnels have been largely ignored. **Our tax and ratepayer dollars would be much better spent on:**

- Funding water recycling and groundwater recharging projects statewide, which would allow communities to develop more sustainable and independent water sources.
- Streamlining environmental review for water storage, water recycling, and other projects that will increase our water supply. Make it possible to use tiered water rates to encourage conservation.
- Developing more aggressive water efficiency programs statewide. There is still way to much water waste here in our City of Turlock. Make it possible to use tiered water rates.
- Improving Delta levees in order to address potential earthquake, flooding, and future sea level rise at a cost of \$2 to \$4 billion.
- Installing fish screens at the south Delta pumps in order to reduce the current salvage of marine life.

The Delta has problems that need to be addressed, but the CA Water Fix tunnels will not produce more water, more reliable supplies, or improve environmental conditions in the Delta.

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources should prepare and circulate a new Draft EIR/EIS that will include some of these alternatives. Such alternatives have a far better chance of complying with the Delta Reform Act and will do much more to increase water supply in regions throughout California.

Sincerely, *Milton Trieweiler*

Milton Trieweiler, Turlock citizen and registered voter.

P.O. box 2020, Turlock CA 95381-2020

