



ENVIRONMENTAL VOICES

P. O. Box 1953, Rocklin, CA 95677 - (916) 595-7197

EVvoices1@aol.com

www.environmentalvoices.org

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Re: Policy Statement Opposing SWRCB Granting Permits To The Department of Water Resources for the California WaterFix's Proposed Water Diversion Infrastructure in the Delta

Dear State Water Resources Control Board Members:

Environmental Voices' members and supporters biggest concern about the WaterFix project is that it will diminish water quality in the delta, and this will have serious health and economic impacts on the people who live there. One of the significant adverse impacts is an increase in toxic algae blooms. Another significant adverse impact is a doubling of salinity violations. These impacts, spelled out in the environmental documents, tell us all we need to know about how much water will be diverted. They claim that the Waterfix won't deliver any more water than they are getting now. If that's true, then why the increase in algae blooms and salt? If the delta were to receive enough flow this would not be the case.

Our understanding is that these hearings are about whether the project causes injury to other users of water. If stagnant water causes algae blooms, and these blooms are toxic to people and animals, then it will cause injury to users of water. Bay area cities draw drinking water from the delta – they won't be able to use that water if it's contaminated with toxic algae. If people can't fish, boat or recreate in the delta because the water is toxic, that also harms the marinas and the economy in the delta. Higher salinity in the delta ruins crops, which is a primary source of revenue for California, and ultimately ruins the land. Delta farmers generally have senior water rights, so why should they get salt water while the higher quality water gets sent south?

The toxic algae and salinity impacts alone should be enough to put the brakes on the WaterFix. We sincerely hope the Water Board will not let these injuries come to the people and farms of the delta, and the cities that take drinking water from the delta.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Whitman

Deborah J. Whitman
President - Environmental Voices

cc: Joseph Marman
Vice President - Environmental Voices