
From: David Fries [<mailto:dfries@PACIFIC.EDU>]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 8:07 PM
To: CWF401
Subject: California WaterFix Permit

Sept. 18, 2017

To: State Water Resources Control Board

I write on behalf of the San Joaquin Audubon Society to protest the issuance of the permit to California WaterFix for the construction of the Twin-Tunnel Project. The Project will demolish critical habitat for protected bird species. Specifically, the infill of wetlands in the Delta, that is proposed by the Project, is habitat for the Black Rail, a no take species. In addition, the construction site proposed for Statin Island is critical wintering habitat for both the greater and lesser Sandhill Crane. Thousands of these birds winter on the Island each year and there is no suitable replacement or mitigation for the loss of this habitat.

Other protected bird species that will be harmed by the construction project are Swenson's Hawks, California Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Clapper Rails. All of the species are protected under California Law.

~~Clearly the environmental-related mitigation proposed in the WaterFix Project cannot repair the damage the~~ massive thirteen plus years of construction that is proposed to occur in the core of the Delta. We urge you to do the right thing for the Delta and the birds. Reject this permit.

Respectfully,

David S Fries, Ph. D.
Conservation Chair
San Joaquin Audubon Society