

July 22, 2016

To: State Water Resources Control Board

POLICY STATEMENT/ LETTER- AGAINST THE CALIFORNIA WATER FIX-CONCERNS WITH THE DEWATERING OF GROUNDWATER AT INTAKE STRUCTURES DURING CONSTRUCTION

My name is James "Bo" Dahlberg, Jr., and I live just south of Clarksburg, on Merritt Island. I am a lifelong, 6th generation, resident of the Delta. My concerns involve the dewatering or lowering of the groundwater surrounding each intake structure during construction.

The scope describes the lowering of the groundwater 30 feet to accommodate construction. It calls for dewatering within a one mile radius, installing pumps approximately 75 feet apart within that radius, and treating that water prior to returning it to the river. That would mean there would be around 4,956 pumps to dewater the groundwater including a treatment facility on each side of the river. Infrastructure would need to be built to support those pumps, electrical power supply, piping system to a central treatment facility, etc., thus eliminating all farming in the area, including land outside the boundary that would be affected from the infrastructure and pumps. Water treatment plants on both sides of the river at each site would be needed to treat that water being pumped. I believe that in my area, the water table is only 5-10 feet below the surface. To pump down one foot of water in one acre is 325,858 gallons (one Acre foot). In 1 square mile, (640 acres) one foot of water is 209 million gallons (68 ac/ft.) A 30 foot drop in ground water would equate to 6.24 BILLION GALLONS! (19,200 ac/ft.). This is for each construction site where pumps are being installed for the Tunnels! Is this just another way to pump more water south for a couple of years while they build the tunnels?

Presuming that there will be continual groundwater coming in from outside the target area, the total number could double, and very easily triple. On our land, which is only 10 feet above sea level, it may never completely dewater.

Underground rivers could flow into the area for years. If a Water Treatment facility is constructed and it can process 15 million gallons a day, then this operation would need to run 24/7 for over 2 YEARS before the target 30 feet of groundwater reduction might be achieved. Then, when the treated water is returned back to the river, whose flows can range widely from season to season, it would greatly increase the percolation back into the ground water. The river water, in turn, supplies the water table. These are areas where the impact has never been fully addressed. Our family farm, which has been farmed since the 1860's, borders the impact area at the site near Clarksburg across from Hood. Our ground water and irrigation water would dry up. The dewatering would most likely effect the ground elevation thus destroying historic structures. Land in the construction area has contingencies for their land, but what about land that could be affected by this dewatering outside the target area? What recourse do we have if our groundwater is lost? The Delta has sustainable groundwater, unlike the areas in the central San Joaquin valley where the tunnels will transport the water.

Are you willing to put your signature on a permit and be responsible for ruining an entire Delta for some corporate farms that grow crops in an already questionable area (due to high salts and minerals in the soil because of the desert like area) with an already rapidly depleting water supply? The Delta is already having too much water pumped out of it. The tunnels also would not generate any extra water supply for the south. It only moves the straw upstream.

This project is not a good solution as a reliable source for the south. I ask that you do not permit any of the intakes being requested by the petitioners.

Very sincerely,

James "Bo" Dahlberg, Jr.