

POLICY STATEMENT: July 27th 2016

SUBMITTED BY
Debbie Elliot
P.O. Box 73
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To the Honorable Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

First, thank you for considering these policy statements from residents in the Delta area. I am a fifth generation farmer's daughter, as well as a real estate agent since 1979 specializing in the Delta. My families agricultural orchard operation is known as David J. Elliot & Sons & Stillwater Orchards located in the north Delta outside of Courtland, which began in the 1850's when our ancestors decided to buy and reclaim land in the Delta instead of panning for gold. This Delta land was our gold. So our roots run deep and we have never sold a piece of land.

Our Rose Orchard Ranch is also intake #3 north of Hood, a 205 acre orchard of pears, cherries, and apples.

My father David J. Elliot Jr instilled in our family a love for the soil and land plus a strong work ethic. I laid sprinkler pipe, picked & packed pears growing up. I remember riding around with my Dad in the orchard when he suddenly jumped out of his army jeep, and held on to a pear blossom and then explained to me how and when it would become a pear. And then he put a clump of soil in my hand with his, and said this is yours, protect it; it is the most fertile soil in the world. Looking back I now understand how he was teaching and preparing me at an early age that we are the stewards of this land and I am grateful he raised me to feel that responsibility of respecting and protecting it. So my message to you is his to me.

I pulled up the petition for the diversion permits and noticed that DWR states that they are consistent with the co-equal goals but I could not help but notice how they omitted a section of 29702.(A) So I will read it to you so it is in the record "the co-equal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place." The two goals are more than just providing a reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta Ecosystem. This misrepresentation or omission of important details feels like another blatant attempt to erase our rich heritage from the equation in that we don't count. This approach makes it easier for the tunnel advocates to build their support and claims. We as Delta residents have been told as you will recall to "shut up" which we will never do.

I also want to read from the 1992 Delta Protection Act which states #29701 "The Legislature finds and declares that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources, and it is the policy of the state to recognize, preserve, and protect those resources of the delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations."

I am hoping after hearing all the testimonies on the numerous injuries it will cause to the Delta Estuary and it's ecosystem, and it's residents, that you will decline the permits which are premature since it is only 10% designed. We need to consider the more financially cost effective plans, that are environmentally sensitive & will produce more water and less reliance on the Delta that need to be vetted. Yet tunnel vision seems to keep marching on. Why is the question? It makes no sense.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Elliot", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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