

July 7, 2016

To: State Water Resources Control Board

Policy Statement AGAINST the California WaterFix

It is with complete amazement that the Delta Tunnels project is still being considered. It seems the Delta residents don't count or have the right to value our heritage, our land, our livelihoods and our fish and wildlife. The legacy of this project is one of destruction of a vast ecosystem that has existed for centuries. Is that the legacy Governor Brown wants to leave?

As a child growing up in the Delta, I have fond memories of fishing for salmon, sturgeon, black bass and striped bass. The waters of the Sacramento River not only were home to many species of fish but also served as backdrop for beaver, mink, muskrat, pheasant, ducks, geese and shore birds. The waters of the Sacramento River irrigated the crops, transported food and goods to markets in San Francisco, Sacramento and beyond and transported people from our interior valley to the coast.

So now a proposal stands before us to remove muck and dirt from the river bottom to install two 40-foot tunnels underground and circumvent the natural flow of the Sacramento River by sucking our precious water commodity through one of three intake valves into the two tunnels. Where does the siphoned water go? To the Central and Southern part of our state, which some must consider more important than the Sacramento River Delta.

I see several huge impediments and questions of the California WaterFix Project:

- 1) In years of drought and a decrease in the Sierra snow pack, there is still a guarantee of cubic feet sent to Southern California. What do our Delta residents do for water?
- 2) The scenic drive that now exists on either side of the Sacramento River will be marred by coffer dams and three huge intake structures – strategically placed at beautiful view spots on the river, marring the landscape forever. How will this be mitigated?
- 3) Heavy diesel trucks carrying materials in and dirt and silt out will be a daily feature on our levee roads. What does that do to the integrity of our 100-year-old levee system?
- 4) What wildlife or fish will remain with the noise of diesel trucks, pile drivers and LED nighttime construction lights? What will this now-sterile environment, devoid of nature, look like?
- 5) Since the California Delta has always been known as a “food basket” of the USA, what crops shall we grow without irrigation? Can grapes, pears, asparagus, corn, tomatoes, alfalfa and wheat survive with no water? What about salt intrusion from the Pacific, when the downstream water flow isn't strong enough?
- 6) What happens to the land and homes that families have owned for generations? Will the State of California simply take them by eminent domain because they feel Southern California residents and their needs are more valuable?
- 7) The Sacramento River Delta is a treasure trove of history. Along the river and near the streams are remnants of Native American settlements with Maidu and Miwok Indian pottery, arrowheads and bone fragments. Many homes along the east and west sides of the river are over a century old and have remained in the respective families for generations. The towns of Clarksburg, Courtland, Locke, Walnut Grove and Isleton all have Historical societies which catalogue and maintain items of historical importance. Many of the buildings in these towns are extremely fragile due to age. What will the daily use of heavy equipment in the river bed do to the foundations of these historical buildings?

I understand Governor Brown wanting to leave a legacy in his name. Can his legacy be one of preserving an ecosystem that has historical significance in so many ways? Or will it be the Delta Tunnels project, which will destroy it?

Sincerely,



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