

July 18, 2016

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Policy Statement Against SWRCB Granting Permits to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Federal Bureau of Reclamation for the California Water Fix Proposed Water Diversion Construction and Infrastructure In the North Delta

To Whom It May Concern:

We strongly oppose the California Water Fix. Here are some of our reasons for this opposition:

The Delta is a historical and cultural resource, but the California Water Fix does not mitigate for changes to the historical and cultural value of the Delta.

The Delta is a recreational resource, but the California Water Fix does not mitigate for the changes in recreation quality.

Underground tunnels do not solve the problem with stability of the water projects during an earthquake. The tunnels would suffer, and probably not survive, a major earthquake.

California Water Fix continues to export water from the south Delta under most water year types and does not change the status quo of pulling ESA listed fish species into the central and south Delta where survival has been documented to be extremely low.

Survival data of ESA listed fish species in the north Delta is sparse and statistical power is very low. The baseline data utilized for choosing an alternative is lacking and more baseline survival data is needed to have a higher certainty of the current condition before choosing an alternative.

Scientific data shows that water export facilities increases predation at the locations of water export. New export facilities will likely increase predation of ESA listed fish species. However, the California Water Fix does not mitigate this likely increased predation.

The California Water Fix also does nothing to increase the survival of ESA listed fish in Clifton Court Forebay. Survival of ESA listed fish in Clifton Court Forebay is extremely low, yet the California Water Fix does not mitigate this loss.

Elk Slough is located downstream of the California Water Fix proposed intakes. Water quality modeling was not performed to determine the likely changes in salinity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature in Elk Slough. The water quality changes in Elk Slough should be mitigated.

Water elevation (stage height) was not modeled for Elk Slough. Changes in water elevation in Elk Slough need to be mitigated.

Ground water levels were not modeled for the surrounding area under all alternatives. Changes in ground water levels need to be mitigated.

Elk Slough is tidally filled. Hydrodynamics within Elk Slough have not been sufficiently modeled to determine if mitigation is necessary.

Construction of the proposed facilities will impact the Delta economy and Delta land values.

We strongly urge the California State Water Resources Control Board to deny the issuance of a permit to the California State Department of Water Resources California Water Fix.

Respectfully,

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