

July 26, 2016

To: The California State Water Resources Control Board

I am writing to oppose the requested permit to divert water from the Northern Delta as part of the state and federal water projects.

While the environmental effects of the water diversion project are well documented and incredibly alarming, as a businessman, I am perhaps even more disturbed about the economic implications of the project. Already, over \$250 million has been spent in doing research for the project, which has not even been completed. It is estimated that it will take about \$1.25 billion to finish the plans for the project and at least \$15 billion to complete the project.

The millions and billions of dollars that will be required to complete the water diversion project is a huge amount of money to spend on a project which has marginal benefits (at the very best) to a very small group of individuals, but will destroy the entire Delta ecosystem and economic system. As an investor, I would never allocate such a large amount of capital to a project with so many risks and so little return. Instead of partaking in such an enormous project to divert water, the state can much more effectively invest the same amount of money, if not less, in more conservative, higher return projects and not waste taxpayer money. For example, instead of building tunnels that will actually provide less water to Southern California, the money could be used for water recycling, conservation, desalination, groundwater clean-up, and repairing existing leaky infrastructure. Creating a portfolio of solutions to the water dilemmas of California, will be a great and beneficial undertaking for our current state of affairs and for generations to come.

I urge you to consider the economic implications of the water diversion project and reject the permit application.

Sincerely,

Brad Murray
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