

July 26, 2016

To: The California State Water Resources Control Board

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

My father is a fourth generation farmer in this Northern Delta, and I believe the project to construct two tunnels will be devastating to the region from an ecological and economic standpoint.

Ecologically, there have been numerous studies that have shown how the Delta will suffer vastly if the water diversion project is completed. Not only will the Delta smelt become extinct, but other outcomes of the project will include noise pollution, road and levee damage, air pollution, and increased industrialization and traffic. Perhaps the most upsetting effect the tunnels will have is on water quality. Salt water will inevitably creep up into the Delta, causing the degradation of habitats and the destruction of ecosystems, creating an environmental nightmare.

From an economic standpoint, the water diversion project will threaten the Delta's agricultural future. Agriculture is a way of life in this California region, providing countless jobs and food to the state and beyond. By diverting water and changing the ecological landscape, an entire culture and history will be eradicated. From a personal standpoint, if the tunnel project is carried out, it will pain me greatly to see how our family farm is destroyed and the hard work of my ancestors forgotten.

Because the water diversion project will have devastating ecological and economic impacts, I strongly urge you to reject the permit application and preserve the Delta.

Sincerely,

Julie Murray
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