

July 3, 2016

TO: State Water Resources Control Board

FROM: Burt Wilson

Re: POLICY STATEMENT FOR WATER BOARD

1) I am most concerned about salt water intrusion into the Delta if water is diverted upstream on the Sacramento River. The State Water Board has told me that water must pass Chipps Island at a rate of 11,400 feet per second to prevent intrusion. Unless this is held to, the water agencies will have to put barriers up at Chipps Island. This would necessitate reinforcing the levees five feet higher all the way back to San Francisco Bay. Think of the cost of this and the potential harm to the environment. The tunnels must be stopped. They will ruin the Delta.

2) The chief reason the tunnels are not needed is that they can't make any new water. They do not add to the available water supply. They only deliver it faster. Only rain and water storage facilities can alleviate the shortage of water. The tell-tale financial benefit to water transfers, however, is huge. Thus if water transfers are sucked out of the Sacramento River way upstream, they do not have to meander downstream where they might not enter the delta and flow out to sea. Thus the tunnels would benefit water transfers, i.e., the selling of surplus water, to points south.

3) One of the biggest factors in the desire to send fresh, clean Sacramento River water south is that the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) has built six, modern ozone water purification plants to treat the Delta water being sent. If fresh Sacramento River water was sent south, the MWD could save millions of dollars by de-activating these purification plants. Thus a public project would result in private savings for the MWD.

4) To prepare the public for the negatives that surround any new conveyance to carry more water south, the water agencies decided to follow an old advertising idea of denigrating the Delta. Their chief theme was that the Delta levees are "aging" and a threat to the water supply. This was contrasted to building twin tunnels under the Delta which would "improve" the water supply. The truth, however, is that the continuing use of the two 40-foot pumps that sent water south caused reverse flows in the Delta that caused the levees to be eroded. So, in the end, the water agencies manufactured a negative which they were responsible for. This is not a factor of good government. It shows to what lengths the water agencies will go to get their way regardless of the truth.

5) One of the biggest negative factors that should preclude building twin tunnels is the earthquake factor. There was a 3.4 earthquake in the Delta area in October, 2010, which the water agencies never mention. The fact is that this earthquake caused the discovery of a whole new system of faults under the Delta. This fact has been hidden from the public by the water agencies--as if it doesn't exist. We must also point out that the twin tunnels are being built to withstand a 6.7 earthquake when the next earthquake is predicted to be 7.2--enough to crumble the twin tunnels.

6) One must take note that the tunnels plan requires a completely new forebay built right next door to the current Clifton Court Forebay. This is to keep fresh, Sacramento River water from mixing with Delta Water. The main difference is that there are no fish in the new forebay. This is

significant because the process of fracking--going on in and around Bakersfield, requires pure, fresh water--the kind the tunnels will deliver. Obviously tunnels water will find its way to Bakersfield where the billionaire Stuart Resnick owns the only water agency not run by the state of California. By selling Sacramento River water to the oil companies, Resnick will make millions of dollars while fracking further destroys the Central Valley water table.

7) The most tell-tale fact that the tunnels will benefit valley farmers and fracking more than bringing more water south for people is that Governor Brown did not put the tunnels to a public vote. He determined that they would be financed by Revenue Bonds instead of General Obligation Bonds. Clearly this was done because of the defeat of the Peripheral Canal in 1982. The water agencies declared they would put up the money, but after years of trying to come up with a financing plan, they dropped the whole thing saying that it would make the price of water so high they could not make a profit.

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