

To the Water Board:

One of the permanent impacts of the diversions will likely be an increase in toxic blue-green algae. The recirculated Draft EIR/EIS says as much, "... it is possible that increases in the frequency, magnitude and geographic extent of *Microcystis* blooms in the Delta would occur relative to Existing Conditions." The document then lists this adverse impact as "Significant and Unavoidable."

Blue-green algae is a health hazard to people and animals. By diverting the water at the head of the Delta and slowing the flow of water, this project creates a permanent drought in the Delta and the potential for a deadly situation.

This is not theoretical, In October of 2015, a dog died from blue-green algae poisoning at a Sacramento city beach. The Sacramento Bee ran the following article:

"Blue-green algae, known as cyanobacteria, is naturally found in fresh and marine water, but its presence becomes a health problem when large quantities collect, and when they're seen as a bloom or surface scum.

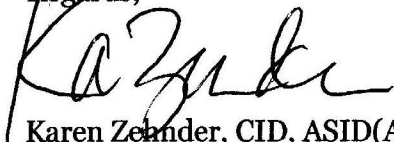
Ingesting water with the algae can expose pets and humans to symptoms including eye irritation, gastrointestinal distress, muscle tremors and breathing difficulty. In large quantities, the toxins can also cause neurological or liver damage and lead to death. Reactions can occur anywhere from a few hours to days after exposure.

Depending on the dose, exposure can trigger very rapid mortality, said Robert Poppenga, a veterinary toxicologist at UC Davis.

"We've had cases where dogs have gone in the water and come out - and within 30 minutes developed classical signs, and die," Poppenga said. "Often people take them to the veterinarian but the dog is dead at the time of presentation."

I'm extremely concerned about this health threat. Tens of thousands of people use Delta waterways to swim and waterski in summer, including many children. It seems to me very unwise to knowingly create a situation that can sicken people, or even kill them. If they are going to divert water, they must ensure that public health is not compromised. "Unavoidable" is unacceptable.

Regards,



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