



Dear Ms. Townsend,

I am very concerned about Governor Brown's proposed tunnel, or bypass project for the California Delta. I am a Delta resident living in Discovery Bay and so the Delta is my backyard. It is very dear to me. I don't feel that enough research, public awareness and comment on the subject has been given. Most Californians aren't even aware there is a Delta, much less what tinkering with it might mean.

It's all about control of the cheap water. The water that naturally flows from the mountains. With an increase in population and climate change, the cheap water resource we have known and loved is stretched thinner and thinner. Naturally those that are strongest and most able to work the political machine are making a play for this resource. Exotic export crops and new housing developments shouldn't be the final say.

If you divert the water from the Sacramento River further downstream and bypass the delta, the only logical conclusion is a further march upstream of the brackish salt water from Suisun Bay. This salty water will further ruin the Delta's ecosystem and the waters that we that live here, and those that travel far to be here, dearly enjoy. I can't see any other conclusion.

They say that salinity levels will be maintained, but I wonder, who's levels and could those standards not be changed in the future? What if it turns out that salinity standards can't be maintained with any meaningful amount of water diversion? After the money has been spent and the bypass built, would it not be a strong temptation to just change the standard? Either that, or just sample further down river. Too many opportunities to gerrymander science to get the results desired.

The lowly Smelt are thrust into the headlines and this bypass proposal is touted to be a savior, but I have to wonder, how much is really known about this Smelt? How many are there really and where do they live? To my knowledge, there are only guesses, not fact and really, we can land robots on Mars and watch *Gone With the Wind* in the palm of my hand, but we can't keep a little fish out of a water pump?

I say if the folks downstream need more water, then let them pay to get **their own** water. Build more reservoirs and desalinization plants. I know, these ideas aren't inexpensive, but like I said, this is a fight over the cheap water. Sometimes what is cheapest, or easiest for some isn't the best solution.

I urge you to take a step back, study the issue a bit more and then educate all Californians about the Delta, what water resources we have and the competition for them and let them decide. Don't just let the Governor railroad through a legacy program he can stick his name on like his father without further study, debate and public comment.

Thank you for your time on this,

Dave Ketchpel

Discovery Bay, CA.