

This is a letter expressing opposition to the Delta Tunnels as a part of the proposed California Water Fix.

The plan inherently goes against the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) which was implemented in the United States in order to protect the integrity of water in the country. The objective of the legislation is to prevent pollution of water and the environment while supporting public facets of purifying wastewater. This was the first piece of legislation heavily supported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In addition, the Delta Reform Act of 2009 was that implemented for California for preserving the environmental, cultural, biological, and economic values of California is being violated by the idea of building the Delta Tunnels in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta Area.

Third, the California Water Fix ignores a significant part of the Endangered Species Act because if implemented it will negatively affect the environment and lives of endangered species through the abuse of habitat of said species.

The California Water Fix does not meet goals inherent in the Delta Reform Act, the Clean Water Act, or the Endangered Species Act. In fact, the tunnels will go against the grain of these acts by draining water from the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary. In this way, water will not be provided to those that need it most.

My objections to the tunnels are threefold:

The California Water Fix does not address the environmental, public health or economic impacts of the proposed Delta tunnels project. Also, the plan ignores alternatives that would save California tax and ratepayers billions of dollars, while investing in the jobs and local water sources that build sustainability.

The environment, economy, and health of the people living in the San Joaquin Delta area will be hugely compromised if the California Water Fix is carried out. Taxpayers will have to pay for a project that will not assist their needs in any way. The project will take jobs from those who depend on the San Joaquin Delta Estuary and the water sources they depend on.

My environmental concerns with the plan are:

The impact on wildlife and plant species in the Delta that depend on freshwater include the Delta smelt, chinook salmon, steelhead, San Joaquin kit fox, and tricolored blackbird, protected species already on the brink that will face decimation due to a diminishing food-web.

The animals, plants, and other organisms that prosper in the San Joaquin Delta Estuary will be affected heavily by changes in freshwater flow. These include endangered species such as the Delta Smelt, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, San Joaquin Kit Fox, Tricolored blackbird, South Pacific Puget Sound Orca Whales, and more.

My public health concerns with the plan are:

Because water flows will decrease in the San Joaquin Delta Estuary if the tunnels are built, the levels of contamination will increase. All members of communities living in the five Delta Counties will be affected.

Chemicals that are not being taken into consideration during construction will be released into the atmosphere, causing such maladies as cancer through the form of carcinogens.

The tunnels plan fails to model for potential increases of carcinogens and other formation of byproducts that would cause cancer and other serious health effects. The communities that live in the area will face threats to their food supply due to contaminants such as mercury in fish and other forms of wildlife.

My economic concerns with the plan are:

For large metropolitan cities such as Los Angeles and San Jose that depend on export water, water rates and property taxes will go up, but they will get no additional water.

The economy supported by San Francisco Bay will most probably be affected. These industries depend on Delta freshwater flows for their crab and salmon fisheries, wildlife sighting, boating, and their restaurant economy, which attracts tourism and recreation from all around the world. Not only does such industry showcase the culture of San Francisco but is worth billions annually. If freshwater from the Delta is gradually redirected to water-intensive crops instead of the Bay Area, there is no doubt that important industries supporting millions of people will be affected.

Salinity intrusion is impacting farms west of the Delta. Removing any more Sacramento River fresh water will make matters worse. Irrigating crops with salt water is impossible. However, this will be an inevitable reality due to increasing salinity from reductions in water flow. Delta Agriculture generates \$5.2 billion for the California economy annually based upon the hard work of farmers who have worked on their craft for decades.

In addition to the agricultural industry of the Delta, the historic fishing industry is worth billions annually, with the salmon industry alone worth \$1.5 billion. The contamination and salinity of water in the Delta Estuary will remove thousands of jobs and livelihoods tied to the fishing industry

Alternatives to Water Exports Ignored

Alternatives to the Delta Tunnels are largely ignored. These alternatives would be more sustainable in that they would efficiently export water south of California in order to remedy the water crisis. In addition, the quality of fresh water and environments surrounding it would keep their integrity. Instead, it seems the only activity being supported will be in the form of water exports from the Delta.

Our tax and ratepayer dollars would be much better spent on:

More aggressive water efficiency programs statewide that would apply to both urban and agricultural users.

The Reduced Exports Plan formulated by the Environmental Water Caucus could potentially preserve the state of freshwater pertaining to the San Joaquin Delta Estuary if implemented. It will place a stringent limits on water exported from the Estuary and help preserve natural species and ecosystems by supporting more inflow and outflow of freshwater. The plan will be a cause for decreasing the demand for water and at the same time send water south of California which will definitely mediate the water shortage crisis. By providing more sustainable and efficient systems south of the Delta, those who need water in these areas will be self-sustainable through localizing the control and movement of water resources in the area. This reliability will come from strengthening levees beyond current efforts. By doing so and more this plan would be in line with legislation pertaining to Estuary preservation and an extremely cheaper alternative than plans implemented by the Water Fix Initiative.

In addition, there is the possibility of building the Benicia Salinity Control Gates which would an extremely efficient alternative to the building of the Delta Tunnels. These gates would be extremely sustainable in that they would not manifest or cause any environmental issues due to the fact that paths of water directed by such a plan would not be blocked nor constricted. These gates would assist the passage of fresh water to be sent south of California. In this way, the gates could literally end the state's water shortage right after its construction. In addition, these control gates will be extremely easy to build-- it will require months instead of years to finish. Lastly, the project will only cost 30 million dollars instead of the billions of dollars that would be required to execute the twin tunnels. The Benicia Control Gates would be amazing at controlling the salinity of water around the Delta Estuary, while allowing a natural like flow system to remain in place. The gates will keep fresh water effectively separated from salt water from the Bay Area, and maintain the flow of fresh water so that salinity would not get out of hand within the San Joaquin Delta.

The flow of freshwater through the Delta is an extremely important force of nature that needs to be maintained and preserved in order to reduce pollutants so that ecosystems and wildlife can be maintained. The increasing of such fresh water is important so that endangered species reliant on water from within the Delta Estuary can be restored.

In Summary

Our environmental, ecological, health and economic values as are according to the Reform Act of 2009 will be hugely compromised and aggravated by the implementation of the Water Fix Initiative in the state of California.

Firstly, this is due to the fact that the building of the Delta Tunnels will redistribute water in inefficient ways which will not produce any new water. Second, needed supplies and solid infrastructure for systematic water systems are not being supported. The money going to fund the

California Water Fix Initiative could be fixing our water drought through supporting initiatives other than the Tunnels.

With hope, we would appreciate the implementation of alternative plans contrary to the plan for the Delta Tunnels as listed above because they would protect the environment, preserve and even supplement California's economy, and lastly provide water throughout the state so efficiently that we could end the state's water drought with immediacy.

Thus, with the desire of being in line with the Delta Reform Act, the federal Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts, with this letter we are wanting to communicate the need for the state to abandon the California Water Fix initiative which will support the building of the Delta Tunnels in the San Joaquin Delta area. This statement is being declared with the utmost compassion and consideration for those living in the state of California and for generations to come.

With sincerity,

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