



42 N. Sutter Street, Suite 506
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 475-9550
www.restorethedelta.org

April 26, 2019

Toni G. Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Anthony Rendon
Assembly Speaker
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 1 (Atkins)—Support

Dear Hon. Senate President pro Tem Atkins and Hon. Assembly Speaker Rendon:

Restore the Delta appreciates introduction of Senate Bill 1, the California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019, and urges that you support the bill and prioritize it for votes this session in both the Senate and Assembly. Passage of this bill will help protect California's air, water, working people, and vulnerable species from regulatory rollbacks sought by the Trump Administration.

At the end of December 2017, the Trump Administration's Bureau of Reclamation notified the public as quietly as it could that it intended to "maximize" Delta exports on behalf of Central Valley Project water contractors, especially those south of the Delta. This announcement exemplified the new administration's take-no-prisoners approach to California and Delta water management by threatening to take as much water as it could, without considering the needs of Delta smelt, Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and other species that are at risk of extinction.

A year later, this past December, the Bureau negotiated concessions from the California Department of Water Resources that would provide more water to CVP contractors at the expense of State Water Project deliveries through amendments to the "coordinated operating agreement" (COA). The Delta and its environmental justice communities statewide will face higher water bills from this action. This Trump administration action will further endanger fish and wildlife species that rely on Delta waterways.

Senate Bill 1 addresses such destructive federal action, and other kinds of action that would degrade air and water quality, reduce critical habitat in Delta ecosystems for vulnerable fish and wildlife species, and threaten farm and food processing jobs (many

Support Passage of Senate Bill 1

April 23, 2019

Page 2 of 2

of which are held by members of the Delta's environmental justice communities). The California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019 would provide state agencies—such as regional water quality control boards, Fish & Wildlife, the Air Resources Board, and CalOSHA—with the authority to resist Trump administration rollbacks by allowing them to consider applying federal standards for protection in effect as of January 19, 2017, the day before Donald Trump took office, and maintain them in case he is re-elected next year.

SB1 would empower state agencies to assess and consider whether the pre-Trump regulations would improve air, water, fish and wildlife species, and workers' protections throughout California—and if they don't, SB 1 directs state agencies to consider whether the January 19, 2017 standards are the best for California. This is common sense for California in the era of Trump.

Thank you for considering our views on this matter. Please support passage of SB 1.



Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla
Executive Director



Tim Stroshane
Policy Analyst

cc: Susan Eggman, Assembly District 13
Jim Frazier, Assembly District 11
Jim Cooper, Assembly District 9
Cathleen Galgiani, Senate District 5
Bill Dodd, Senate District 3
Steven Glazer, Senate District 7