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On the Delta Conveyance Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Construction impacts of the proposed Delta Conveyance project:

- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) obscures the full extent of construction impacts by resort to voluntary actions and “best practices,” none of which are required unless they are enforced on DWR. Their absence would have significant and unavoidable impacts on the Delta.
- Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) DEIR’s reliance on a compensatory mitigation plan concentrates mitigations for the project on Bouldin in the Central Delta when most actual drastic effects will occur in the North Delta where intakes for the tunnel will be built.
- We doubt DWR will follow through on its Community Benefits Program, since DWR has not even begun to negotiate such benefits broadly with potentially affected Delta communities and the DEIR offers neither specific benefits nor a time for when negotiations with Delta communities would start. Furthermore, DWR does not acknowledge the full range of construction impacts on environmental justice communities, and, therefore, cannot offer appropriate community benefits beyond full mitigation.
- The DEIR on the DCP distorts the construction of 12 to 14 years as “temporary” when for businesses and farms in the Delta the duration will mean life or death for getting products and crops to market on Delta levee roads clogged with truck traffic, dust, noise, air pollution, loss of cultivated acreage, and more.
- The legal Delta and surrounding communities are bona fide environmental justice communities, with relatively small shares of white and wealthy populations. These residents and Delta region community members rely substantially on the Delta directly, and the north Delta in particular for subsistence fishing. The DCP will harm such beneficial users of water was fish, outdoor water-contact recreation, and environmental justice and tribal beneficial user communities.

Operation impacts of Tunnel when built:

- The DCP, despite DWR's contention that its north Delta intakes are "unsinkable," is vulnerable to sea level rise because global warming tipping points with polar glacial melting and heat expansion of the oceans threaten to render current sea level rise projections obsolete.
- DWR and state officials generally have failed to imagine a future for State and federal water supply provision should the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) permanently lose control of Delta salinity conditions. They came close to loss of control early in 2022.
- The Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires reduced reliance on the Delta for California's future water needs, in favor of boosting supplies through water use efficiency, recycling, stormwater capture, and increased local and regional water self-sufficiency. The DCP foolishly ignores this mandate. Such investments will be far more climate resistant than reliance on the DCP.
- The DCP assumes continuation of the state's commitments to the legal doctrine of prior appropriation in water rights, which threatens to perpetuate climate injustices through the Delta watershed and for 27 million California water customers of the SWP and CVP in the Delta and in southern California as climate and weather conditions worsen.
- Climate change undermines the Delta's engineered role not just from sea level rise but from flood threats as well. When precipitation creates extreme runoff and flooding that will collide with high king tides to generate massive infrastructure failures and property damage in the Delta. These failures will threaten loss of life for vulnerable communities in and around the Delta and its low elevation communities. The DCP intakes would also be extremely vulnerable to damage and failure when this occurs.
- DWR's DEIR ignores the effects of the growing threat of extreme heat and extended hot seasons in the Delta watershed and its effects on reservoir operations and temperature management for vulnerable human and fish populations. The DCP's maintenance of status quo deliveries to SWP and CVP customers is implausible. DWR appears to pick and choose which climate change effects it will recognize; reality will treat us all differently. The DCP will often fail to deliver the volume of water anticipated to justify bond repayment by participating water districts. The DCP is not cost-effective and will not increase water supplies for disadvantaged communities schedule to receive water from the DCP.
- Should the DCP be completed and begin operations, its water quality impacts will be dire on Delta drinking water supplies, increasing ambient salinity (while in-Delta operations are still possible), and spreading harmful algal blooms that will

harm Delta environmental justice communities and tribal beneficial uses of Delta waters.

Delta Regional Flood Issues

- Levees and other flood protective infrastructure needs are recognized by local flood agencies and engineers, yet we lack necessary state level funding for the continual maintenance of these projects because of the harmful perception that cities like Stockton, lack the ability to maximize return on economic development tied to flood infrastructure improvements. Upstream floodplain restoration is essential to reducing the flood threat and replenishing groundwater aquifers for healthy environments and local water needs.
- Current FEMA zones are not mapped accurately as they are updated every 7 years, if ever, and the homes within FEMA zones only compensate homeowners, not renters.
- There is weak communication for emergency services regarding flood from source agencies (OES, Counties, etc.) and any information given to the public is not translated for non-English speakers.
- There are not enough community centers/warming shelters to relocate unhoused communities who reside along levees (such as Mormon Slough in Stockton) due to negligence and action for relocation and evacuation orders from the county, Sherriff's office and OES.