

### 3. North Delta CARES

Environmental Justice: impacts to low-income and minority populations

- Longer emergency vehicle response times due to blocked and re-routed roads during, which could end up in increased mortality if can't transport patients within the "golden hour" or respond to fire or flood emergencies.
- Increases in lung and breathing ailments such as asthma for vulnerable populations due to increased air pollution related to generators need to run dewatering pumps placed every 50-75 feet, removing groundwater 24/7 around the perimeter of all construction sites during WaterFix's 14-year construction period.
- Removal of up to 15,000 cfs from the Sacramento River (6,000 cfs at Fremont Weir and 9,000 cfs at three new WaterFix intakes in North Delta) could increase the frequency and duration of blue-green algae blooms in Delta waterways, which would result in people who rely on fishing in Delta as a food source being unable to eat fish they catch.
- Noise and vibration from 32 million pile driving strikes, and loss of domestic water supplies due to lowered water elevations will force low-income and minority populations to abandon their homes, or lose property values and be unable to sell homes at market value that existed prior to construction of WaterFix.
- The conversion (permanent and temporary) of approximately 5,500 acres of Important Farmland associated with the construction of water conveyance facilities and borrow, spoils, and muck storage areas will preclude future agriculture, resulting in job losses primarily for the low-income Hispanic population in the Delta who are the predominant farm work force. The loss of farmland even for a "temporary" period of the 14-year construction and time it would take to rehabilitate the soils and re-connect irrigation systems will result in permanent loss of workers in the area. Without an existing public transit service available for commuting to jobs outside of the Delta, the loss of nearby jobs would likely force these workers to move in order to find employment.
- The reduction of quality and availability of agricultural irrigation water due to disruption/disconnection of 43 miles of delivery canals and drainage ditches during construction, less Delta flows below three new intakes allowing more salinity intrusion, and contamination of water supply from discharges from 24/7 dewatering will result in elimination of farming and farm jobs for the existing Hispanic population in the communities surrounding the construction of new intakes and intermediate forebay.
- During the 14-year construction period, there will be fewer fish available to catch for low-income and minority populations that are sustenance fishermen due to fish mortality. Popular fishing locations will be abandoned due to dangerous noise and vibration from the millions of pile driving strikes that will occur at three new intakes and eight barge facility sites.

- Health risks will be increased for low-income and minority sustenance fishermen due to increased bioaccumulation of water pollutants such as selenium and methylmercury that are expected due to less Delta outflow in the Sacramento River and increased percentage of San Joaquin River containing agricultural drainage. This is a serious health risk because minority populations in the Delta frequently eat fish they've caught (3 or more times a week) and, according to surveys conducted, are unaware of existing contaminants that can make fish dangerous to eat.