

June 26, 2016

To: California State Water Resources Control Board

POLICY STATEMENT AGAINST THE CALIFORNIA WATERFIX - 3 proposed new intakes for the tunnel project

We are a farming family living on Merritt Island 3 miles south of Clarksburg. Our great grandfather, at age 20, immigrated here in 1858 from New Hampshire, hoping to farm some of the MOST FERTILE LAND IN THE U.S. In 1872 he succeeded in buying 160 acres which eventually grew to 280 acres through the hard work of the next 3 generations of Connors. During those 144 years, our family farming operation has adapted to many changes in the condition of the Sacramento River Delta and been able to recover and remain viable as sustaining producers of food for our nation. Beginning as milk producers then seed crops (lettuce, onion, alfalfa), then peas, beans, corn, tomatoes, grains, safflower oil, and wine grapes, we adapted as market demands changed. In the early years, threatened by flooding, we built our own levees and in response to recent drought periods we have converted over half our acreage to drip irrigation.

Now the ill-conceived Water Fix plan threatens to destroy the quality of our water (diversions will be taken upstream), our family legacy, our historic home, our fertile land (saltwater intrusion), and our agrarian way of life. Constructing tunnels that would divert enormous amounts of water from the Sacramento River will prevent the outflow needed for sustaining a healthy ecosystem for fish, wildlife, agriculture and humans.

There is an alternative plan, "A Sustainable Water Plan for California", presented in May 2015 by RESTORE THE DELTA which accommodates present water quality standards (State Water Board Delta-flow criteria) and mandates agricultural water conservation, reinforcement of levees, and installation of improved fish screens at the water pumps south of the Delta (<http://ewcalifornia.org/reports/ewcwaterplan9-1-2015.pdf>). Please consider this alternative to the extremely damaging, controversial, and costly WATER FIX which is designed to send our quality water to irrigate the salt-laden lands south of the Delta that cannot sustain agriculture over the long term.

Sincerely yours,

Charlyn R. Connor