

June 20, 2016

Dear members of the SWRCB,

I am writing to state my opposition to the CA WaterFix, or tunnels. It's clear to me, from reading the EIR documents, that the project proponents did not seriously examine reasonable alternatives to this expensive and destructive project.

Having already dammed and diverted the San Joaquin River for all it's worth, creating poor water quality in the southern Delta due to low flows and agricultural runoff, the exporters have set their sights on the north Delta and its high-quality Sacramento River water. Diverting the Sacramento River just as it enters the Delta will have terrible consequences for this degraded estuary.... degraded because too much water has already been exported.

Salinity intrusion is already a problem for the western Delta. Taking freshwater from the top of the Delta system will make the salinity problem worse and violate the Clean Water Act in the process. In the project's RDEIR/SDEIS document, Table 31-1, WQ:11 "Effects on electrical conductivity concentrations resulting from facilities operations and maintenance" is a "Significant and Unavoidable Adverse Impact" and this is *AFTER* mitigation.

Most of the Delta's farmland is federally designated prime farmland. Delta farmers should not be forced to irrigate with salty water. Contaminating prime Delta farmland with salts so that Sacramento River water can be exported to semi-desert farmlands is a terrible policy choice for California. These new water diversions for the tunnels should not be granted a permit by the Board.

Sincerely,

Paul Hughes

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