

The CA Delta Tunnels Validity

From: John Armstrong – Rocklin, CA (Sacramento suburb). I research western states water issues A LOT. I have here some sensible answers to the toughest issues faced. I have a 40-year career background of working in public land management in 4 US states in the US Forest Service and 2 CalEPA departments – pesticide registration and toxic substances control.

Delta water to SoCal and Central Valley farmers via two 40' diameter tunnels

SEND THEM NONE OF IT because they don't deserve it. Delta farmers have put themselves 15 to 25 feet under sea level thru a century of building levees and groundwater pumping so yes, if the tunnels get built, the subsided areas will get saltwater intrusion and Delta farmers will go out of business, but Delta farmers are too small an interest when compared to what they're up against. If Trump's CA repubs (McClintock, Denham, Nuñez, McCarthy, Valadao) are just too heavily funded by foreign and domestic ag, then let them have one tunnel not two. The 2nd tunnel was always just a hedge providing bargaining wiggle room for tunnel supporters, asking for two hoping to ultimately get one. A 40 foot diameter pipe carries an immense quantity of water. Regarding threatened plant and animal species, they might just have to be a casualty to the unstoppable onslaughts of human head count and cultural expansion, with or without loose immigration laws. Nobody can gently stop human overpopulation, loose immigration laws just make it harder.

Agricultural interests

They should definitely *not* be revered. 80% of the water from the Colorado River goes to ag, not the cities that depend on Colorado River water to varying extents: Denver, LA, Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, San Diego and Salt Lake City (*stat from "Where the Water Goes" by David Owen – New Yorker Magazine staff writer*). This stat is similar for the 7 whole river systems that LA, SoCal, and CA ag companies take water from. CA Central Valley and ag interests always gloss over (lie about) where "their" water goes, saying just that they "produce half the nation's fresh produce". What they really do with all that water is ship a vast portion of it out of the US in the form of what's called "embedded water" – water in the fruit, vegetables and meat. How can they/we talk about "our" water resources when ag sells it to Pacific Rim countries et al? and have been doing so for half a century. From *groundwater pumping*, California's Central Valley has a nearly depleted aquifer according to NASA's GRACE program, along with the Colorado River Basin, the southern high plains and all along the southern US.

Sidestep Mulholland, force SoCal to stop stealing everyone's water

In the 80s Arizona took (back) Colorado River water from LA and SoCal ag thru its Central Arizona Project, at Lake Havasu, directing some of it to Phoenix, Tucson and their ag. We have to do adopt the same attitude regarding giving water to LA's Metropolitan Water District. SoCal cities in the long term have done such a failing job of managing water, citing:

- Allowing saltwater incursion into the LA Basin aquifer stemming from 2 centuries of excessive groundwater pumping. Similarly but not as much for the San Fernando Valley (SFV) basin.
- Allowing the western end of the SFV to become a Superfund Site of toxic substances coming from WW2 war machine maintenance, nuclear testing & development pollution, and unpoliced commercial activities.

- Just doing more water grabs from western state river systems instead of reigning in real estate and ag developers.
- Concretization of the Los Angeles River blocking stormwater from replenishing the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley basin aquifers. Angelinos, their politicians and the Army Corp of Engineers knew all along they should be building reservoirs and holding ponds along the river course but instead opted to let real estate developers have their way via voter/political sway.
- Refusal to use percentages rather than acre-feet in allocating river water from western states, thus allowing an immense amount water rights confusion and paper water. Colorado River upper basin states (CO, UT, WY) use percentages.
- Not doing enough to stem the tide of urban sprawl in all directions, not that they get much help from CA immigration policy.

Alternative water sources

Federal oversight attempts should be directed at building water pipes and channels from the Columbia and Mississippi Rivers to US western states, not oil pipes from Canada to the Gulf. Water is a primary human need, oil is not. Another possibility is using existing US river systems as conduits – cross-channels from river to river, edging southwestward.

Sent to:

White House, LADWP (DWP) Los Angeles Dept of Water and Power, CA Department of Water Resources – Sacramento, CA State Water Resources Control Board - Sacramento

Tunnel supporters:

Santa Clara (Silicon) Valley Water District – closest proximity to Clifton Court Forebay pumps, the main pick up point for water from the Delta estuary, and the proposed 2 tunnel outlets.
 San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
 Westlands Water District
 Friant Water Users – Fresno
 Kern County Water Agency – Bakersfield – 2nd largest State Water Project (SWP) initial entitlement holder.
 The Metropolitan Water District of SoCal (claims it will pay 10 billion toward the 16 year WaterFix Project. Could reach 60 billion). Spokesperson Rebecca Kimitch. Largest SWP initial entitlement holder.
 Urban developers in Los Angeles who are direct beneficiaries of the water
 Delta Conveyance Authority - an entity set up around 2017 to represent the south-of-the-Delta water agencies. They comprise new, batched bureaucrats to purchase by the lofty lobbyists involved.

Tunnel opponents:

Some of the NorCal local governments and water districts

Environmental groups:

deltatunnelsaction.com
 Planning and Conservation League
 Friends of the River
 Restore the Delta
 Sierra Club
 California Sport Fishing Alliance
 Clean Water Action
 Environmental Justice Water Coalition