

July 25, 2016

To: California State Water Resources Control Board

SUBJECT: Policy Letter on WaterFix Change of Diversion Petition

Dear Hearing Officers,

As a life-long native of Clarksburg and the Sacramento Delta, I am writing to express my great concerns with the inadequacy of the RDEIR/SDEIS for the proposed WaterFix project. This gigantic water conveyance facility proposed for construction in the North Delta will result in permanent injury to water users in the vicinity of the three new intakes, pipes connecting to the Tunnels, the Tunnels themselves and the Intermediate Forebay.

I have three primary project components of concern during the estimated 14-year construction period; each with individual adverse impacts on farming, irrigation, and water quality that cumulatively result in severe adverse impacts on local water supplies, agricultural production and our local communities:

1. Dewatering Pumps placed every 50-75 feet around the entire perimeter of all construction areas (e.g.: intakes, sediment ponds, forebay, tunnel alignment, concrete batch plants, fueling stations, storage areas, etc.) pumping up to 10,300 gallons per minute:

Loss of Well Water Homes, farms and businesses reliant on well water may lose water supply due to dewatering lowering groundwater levels up to 20 feet;

Degraded Water Quality RDEIR/SDEIS fails to identify the volume of water that will be discharged into individual local drainage ditches and Delta waterways, or the cumulative daily amount of discharges from dewatering that will certainly degrade water quality from existing conditions.

2. Pipe Installation Several dozen pipes connecting the intakes and Intermediate Forbay to the Tunnels, and the Tunnels themselves, will cross hundreds of existing drainage ditches and canals in the massive construction zone. These ditches and canals will be disconnected and drainage and irrigation disrupted:

Seepage Having farmed in the area being considered for the Tunnels, I can testify to the sensitivity of the soils and how difficult it is to control underground water. Blocking drainage ditches will result in the shallow groundwater seeping to the surface of farmlands, preventing farming due to oversaturated soils, which will mean permanent crops being damaged or killed and thousands of acres being fallowed for 14 years or more.

Farm and Home Access Thousands of construction vehicles, road re-routing and blocking, massive pipe trenching, and other construction activities will prevent access to individual parcels, resulting additionally in thousands of acres being fallowed for at least 14 years of construction or the abandonment of farms and homes according to RDEIR/SDEIS.

3. New SWP Diversions Removal of 15,000 cfs from the Sacramento River results in lowering surface water levels 3 feet according to RDEIR/SDEIS, which will prevent existing local pump/siphon diversions from being able to access water supplies.

Intakes Combined operation will remove up to 9,000 cfs from the Sacramento River.

Freemont Weir Included in the Petition's project description, the lowering of the Freemont Weir will add a new diversion point on the Sacramento River, allowing removal of up to 6,000 cfs from the River.

Degraded Water Quality According to the RDEIR/SDEIS, Delta water will become unusable for local agriculture due to contamination levels exceeding agricultural standards for salinity, bromide and chloride.

The project descriptions in the RDEIR/SDEIS and the Change of Diversion Petition both lack sufficient details regarding the frequency, extent, severity, location or duration of disruptions to local water supplies, dewatering discharges, or areas where contaminants will exceed Clean Water Act and Delta Water Quality Control Plan standards. Consequently, the applicants lack the factual data necessary to claim the WaterFix project will not cause great harm to the water users in the Delta.

I therefore respectfully request the hearing officers to remand the WaterFix petition back to the applicants for the purpose of providing a more detailed description of specific dewatering volumes and locations, specific areas where individual water quality criteria will be exceeded, the location of individual water wells that will be affected by dewatering, and to identify specific numbers and locations of individual diversions in the Delta that will be prevented from accessing water supplies due to lowered water surface elevations.

Sincerely,

Mike Campbell
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