

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to a \$15-25 billion cross-Delta conveyance **using two oversized 40-ft tunnels**, to accommodate increasing demand for water. The demand results from population expansion in a desert environment (Southern California) and proliferation of more profitable orchard crops that require uninterrupted irrigation (a record almond harvest is forecasted this year).

Conservation is far cheaper – municipalities could cut perhaps 50% of their water simply by dispensing with lawns, and farmers wouldn't be so stressed if they did not plant orchards.

Arguments of benefits for wildlife are a red herring. With past history of DWR mismanagement and failures on the part of the SWRCB to enforce operations agreements and standards, there is no trust that future water management will promote threatened Delta species, or even prevent their extinction. Indeed, recent lawsuits against regulators absurdly suggest delivery restrictions can't be shown to be beneficial to wildlife. Such bickering about water deliveries over the last 50 years has seen the only remaining fish in the Delta become hardy, non-native species.

The tunnel design is an example of "if you build it, the water will come". If built, political pressure to fully utilize the oversized tunnels will become enormous. Climate change makes it very uncertain that future Sacramento River flows would support the tunnels design intent – *oversized* in expectation of diverting huge winter discharges when climatologists are telling us to expect more prolonged droughts.

Planned diversions with future climate change will worsen Delta water quality. Water quality issues include salt water contamination of drinking water, changes to brackish water conditions required by threatened wildlife, and build-up of toxins in the lower Delta and SF Bay. With rising sea level and more frequent droughts, saline intrusions into the Bay and Delta will occur more often and/or severely, and will only be exacerbated by upstream water diversions. Water districts relying on drinkable Delta water will be impacted, as will wildlife needing specific brackish water quality requirements. Further, without periodic flood flows, the Bay won't get flushed with fresh water. Bay sediment, which is already contaminated by toxins, will become more so as flood flows get diverted.

I have witnessed more than 300% growth in California's populace. It is time to start identifying and promoting sustainable practices in water management, and stop gambling on expensive engineering solutions.

Jeffrey Howard
Shingle Springs, CA