

July 16, 2016

To: The California State Water Resources Control Board

I am writing in opposition to the requested permit to divert up to 9,000 cubic feet of water per second from the Northern Delta as part of the state and federal water projects.

Construction of the proposed new additional diversion points will devastate the Delta and will turn the North Delta into an industrialized war zone. Negative impacts include noise, air pollution, excessive truck traffic, road and levee damage, dewatering of local wells, pollution related to 31 million cubic yards of tunnel muck, conversion of agricultural land to industrial uses and damage to reclamation districts and other agricultural infrastructure.

However, the most devastating effect of the new diversion sites will be to degrade water quality in many areas of the Delta. Currently water quality standards are regularly violated in the South Delta because of inadequate flow from the San Joaquin River. The new proposed points of diversion will result in the reduction of flow downstream of the diversion points. Even if outflow from the Delta meets the requirements of D- 1641, flow between the new diversion points and the point of outflow measurement will be reduced, resulting in saltwater intrusion, and concentration of contaminants. Water right holders downstream of the proposed points of diversion will be harmed by poor quality water and lower river levels which could make pumps inoperable. Agricultural lands will be damaged, critical habitat will be degraded, and ecosystems will be destroyed.

This proposal does not conform to the Delta Reform Act's requirement of reducing reliance on the Delta and advancing the co-equal goals in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta's resources including agriculture. The Delta Reform Act, §29702 states, "*The co-equal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta's cultural, recreational, natural resources and agriculture as an evolving place.*". The proposal advances only one of the co-equal goals at the expense of the other, and the unique cultural, recreational and natural resources including Delta agriculture.

I urge you to remember Owens Valley, Mono Lake and the San Joaquin River and reject the permit application.

Sincerely,  
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