

July 13, 2016

To: State Water Resources Control board

POLICY STATEMENT/LETTER-AGAINST THE CALIFORNIA WATERFIX-3
PROPOSED NEW INTAKES ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER.

My name is Tom Wallace and I am a 52 year resident of Clarksburg. I am a retired civil and geotechnical engineer who practiced in the northern California area for over 40 years. I am the geotechnical engineer of record for many of the high-rise buildings in Sacramento and have worked on projects throughout the Delta, including most of the TV transmitting towers in the Walnut Grove area. Geotechnical engineering involves a good deal of interpreting data *using common sense*. On that note I would like to comment on the tunnel proposal from the standpoint of an overview. I have not been involved in the detailed discussions and will offer you my opinion based only on common sense as I see the situation

The disruption to all the river communities in the area during the extended construction period will essentially obliterate them; home values will be worthless; water wells will be destroyed and noise, vibrations and 24 hour construction traffic will make the communities unlivable.

Some of the richest agricultural land in the United States will be destroyed by salt water intrusion.

Our fragile Delta and the fish and wildlife dependent upon it will be compromised.

Other alternatives are available and should be pursued. It seems that the bureaucratic steamroller has such a head start that no one cares to look at cheaper, better and less destructive ways of proceeding. What about the Delta-Tulare Water Plan? Every time desalination is mentioned it is said to be too expensive. ***Of course it is!*** Every new technology starts out too expensive and gets less expensive and more practical as companies get competitive and develop new ways of accomplishing their goals. I understand that 20 percent of Israel's household water is provided by desalination of sea water.

In summary, if the tunnel project becomes a reality and long after Governor Brown and the tunnel advocates are gone, the Delta and its communities, culture and farming are memories, the southern California agencies and powers that be will complain that they need ***more*** water from the north. **The tunnels are a short-sighted, too expensive and highly disruptive option.**

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