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(slip holder at Willow Berm Marina, Isleton)

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SWRCB  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear members of the SWRCB,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the "California Water Fix" or the proposed Delta Tunnels.

I am 58 years old now and have been enjoying the Delta since I was nine years old. I learned to fish with my father while camping at Vierra's Resort in Isleton. I learned the value of time spent on the water and to appreciate nature's bounty of fish and wildlife. I wouldn't trade those father / son bonding moments for anything in the world. As a father myself, I have raised my son on the water. He has learned about purchasing locally grown vegetables and fruit from the farmers that have tilled the productive Delta Islands since before he was born. He has learned to harvest clams from the river and has caught many fish which have graced our dinner table. We have discussed the importance of smart farming and selecting crops which can be grown with the local resources.

It is clear that the farmers further south have not learned that lesson. They have planted very thirsty crops in a semi-arid area that was already short on water. They allowed their groundwater supplies to become tainted and polluted rendering them useless for growing crops. Now they want to take water from above our Delta to farm their lands. The increased salinity from this solution will force many Delta Islands to irrigate with salt water thus ruining their lands. It will also wipe out one of the West Coast's greatest salmon runs. There are many people outside of the Delta whose livelihood is dependent upon the salmon fishery. This is a gift that was given to us by Mother Nature and should not be squandered so that greedy farmers can grow a thirsty crop in areas that would have never supported this type of vegetation.

Please do not fall for the falsehoods being perpetrated by the Big Water lobbies. They claim that they won't take any more water than they currently are. If that's true, why are tunnels being built with far more capacity than that. They claim to care for the fish, but their very actions almost guarantee the demise of the salmon fishery. Why should Delta farmers whose families have farmed in this area for generations be put out of business so that almonds can be grown in the desert. Why are their farms more important than the Delta ones.

Please look at the long term picture and vote no against the "California Water Fix" project. Give our children and their children a chance to experience one of the largest and most diverse estuaries on the West Coast. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

Blue Skies,

*Dave Witte*

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