



September 21, 2017

Tam Doduc, Hearing Officer
Felicia Marcus, Hearing Officer
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 94596

CWFhearing@waterboards.ca.gov

Protestant the Planning and Conservation League respectfully requests that the following topics be discussed at the pre-hearing conference October 19, 2017.

Do the WaterFix applicants wish to have the SWRCB continue processing the petition at this time?

Do protestants and other parties have views on whether the Water Fix application hearing process should be continued at this time?

Background:

The recent decision by the Westlands Water District to oppose participation in the WaterFix project raises significant questions as to whether the project can be financed even if it received all necessary permits. Indeed Westlands voted to not even advance approximately \$50 million for design, permitting (including SWRCB permitting), and other pre-construction costs.

The General Manager of Metropolitan Water District said in an interview on KPCC on September 21, 2017 that unless the USBR changes its financing structure there are only two options, scaling down the project or abandoning it. And the USBR has said it is not changing its financing structure. Scaling down the project would require significant revisions in the application before the Board.

There would be major costs to the SWRCB and the many protestants in participating in the next round of hearings for a project that is now very much in doubt among its most significant backers.

At a minimum the pre-hearing conference should hear from the petitioners whether they wish to proceed at this time or wait until they determine if they have a financially feasible project.

Secondly it is appropriate to hear from protestants as to whether the application meets all legal requirements for the next round of hearings by the Board.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonas Minton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonas Minton
Senior Water Policy Advisor
Planning and Conservation League