

Policy Statement – California Water Fix Hearing – Part 2 – February 8, 2018

My name is Daniel Witte, and I strongly oppose the California WaterFix plan for many reasons. The Delta Tunnels don't generate additional water for California. Instead, they simply take existing water and move it to another location, while harming the environment in the process. There are many better solutions to California's water problems and increasing water reliability. These include desalination and water conservation. Desalination will actually generate more water for the state without harming the environment.

Building the Delta Tunnels will severely decrease the quality of Northern California's water. As of now, Northern California receives its water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers simultaneously. If the California WaterFix is built, the Sacramento River will be allocated for the tunnels, leaving Northern California with just the San Joaquin River, which is much smaller and more polluted.

The Delta Tunnels will devastate the commercial salmon industry which generates \$250,000,000 per year, because the largest salmon run on the West coast passes through the California Delta to reach their spawning grounds. If the tunnels are built, there will be inadequate fresh water in the Delta for the salmon because the water will enter the tunnels above the Delta rather than flowing through. If the salmon are not able to reach their spawning grounds and reproduce, there will be no fish for the commercial fishermen to catch, resulting in no money for the fishermen.

Building the California WaterFix will cost at least 1,700,000,000 taxpayer dollars, whereas repairing and maintaining Delta levees would only cost \$400,000 per year. Repairing and maintaining the Delta levees will protect Delta communities from flooding in the event of a large earthquake. In addition, California needs to repair the fish screens on the existing pumps to protect small salmon and Delta smelt from being sucked into them instead of removing water above the Delta.

The California WaterFix will devastate the Delta farmers. If the Delta Tunnels are built, salt water from the Bay will intrude farther up into the Delta, because less fresh water will pass through it. There will be less fresh water flowing through the Delta, because the intakes for the Delta Tunnels will be located above it. The farmers in the Delta cannot irrigate with salt water

because it would kill their crops. If the farmers cannot grow their crops, they cannot make any money. The majority of California's vegetables are grown on Delta farms. Unlike farms in the Central Valley, water used for the Delta farms returns to the Delta naturally.

The Water Resources Control Board needs to terminate the hearings on the current California WaterFix project because it is being changed. I don't understand why we are still having hearings on a project that is being changed. If the project is being changed, old information mustn't be used to plan a new project. Instead, new data must be gathered and the project needs to start from scratch.

Over all, please take my comments and concerns into consideration and stop any planning or permitting for the California WaterFix project. As a boater, fishermen and nature lover, I do not want the California Delta ruined so thirsty crops can be grown in the wrong environment.

Sincerely,

Daniel

6727 Sunnyslope Avenue Castro Valley California 94552