

State Water Resources Control Board Policy Statement
Tunnel Hearing – July 27, 2016

With the common knowledge that there is no “new water,” it is senseless to destroy prime property unique to Sacramento County, just to please outside interests. Taking thousands of acres of land out of production, permanently destroying family homes and farmland with massive concrete structures is akin to paving over prime scenic acreage in Yosemite Valley. No one would destroy a National Park, yet our scenic and productive river front is threatened, and its immeasurable value would be permanently destroyed.

I live on a farm just off Scribner Road, adjacent to the proposed first intake. The serenity of my home life would be eliminated by the massive construction only a few feet from my home. Dust from an adjacent concrete batch plant would make it impossible to breathe clean air. I would not be able to cook, bathe or do laundry as dewatering the Delta would dry up the water sourced from our 120 foot deep well. We would no longer have water to grow crops on our acreage. De-watering the Delta for the length of the tunnels puts many other families and businesses at the same risk of trying to live and produce local crops without water, and who knows if the ground water source, once dried up could ever again be restored. Children and grandchildren are frequently present in our home, this location is their heritage and legacy, the tunnel intake project will rob families of the ability to have the continuity of their nuclear family life. I have attached images of the tomato harvest from the field in front of our house. Such farming would be totally disrupted by the intake plans. A similar harvest image shows my granddaughter experiencing the joy of picking field tomatoes just a few feet away from the swing set in our back yard. Such activities would be totally eliminated by your proposed tunnel intake.

Among image attachments to this letter is a collection of Greater Sandhill Cranes who regularly feed in the region of the first intake. The photo is shot from by back yard, some cranes have leg bands attached in 1992 and 1994 identifying that these families of cranes return to the same location and have longevity. The cranes have been here longer than humans, it is not right to displace them.

Historic Indian burial mounds have been noted along the Sacramento River, and history has it that one such location is on the land proposed for the first intake construction.

The location of the third intake is the historic Hollister homestead. The Honorable Dwight Hollister homesteaded at this location in 1857, was elected to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and later elected to the CA State Assembly. His land extended into the area now called Stone Lake, and for many years was identified as Hollister Lake. The late George Wurster acquired the Hollister homestead in 1845, and for the past 71 years this family, multigenerational, has kept this property and worked this land. An attached image shows the Hollister homestead. This area should not be obliterated by another massive concrete intake.

It is also a popular fishing spot with easy access to the Sacramento River from the banks. The immediate neighboring property, the multigenerational farming – orchard operation of Greene and Hemly, would also be compromised by the planned construction. A painted image of this property is attached as well, a scenic and functional landmark on Hwy 160, totally threatened by the proposed tunnels.

We know our neighbors and appreciate their multigenerational contribution to our community and to our economy. Please don't destroy this vital and historic part of Sacramento County.

Sincerely,
Barbara J Arnold, MD
Residing at 1170 Scribner Road, Sacramento, CA 95832
Mail: PO Box 338, Courtland, CA 95615



Tomato Harvest at our home at 1170 Scribner Road –may the next generation continue to farm!



Tomato Harvest at our home at 1170 Scribner Road



Family fun before tomatoes are planted – will there be future crops?



Family of cranes feeding adjacent to proposed first intake at 1170 Scribner Road – note bands on legs



The field next door, proposed site of concrete batch plant, viewed from my porch at 1170 Scribner Road.

Greene and Hemly historic home and ranch operation threatened by the intake at Courtland.



Historic Hollister homestead (Wurster property) site of proposed third intake.