

California Water Board
7-16-2016

As a longtime resident of Rio Vista and the California Delta and as the managing owner of the Delta Marina Yacht Harbor which has been in my family for 57 years, I am very familiar with the recreation business in our area and the concerns of our guests.

I have seen first-hand the change in water flows particularly in the Sacramento River and Georgiana slough at their junction in Walnut Grove when the south Delta pumps are running. When the water is being pulled through Georgiana slough by the pumps operation the flow of water down the Sacramento slows considerably. The water quality is also affected in that the Georgiana is much clearer and cooler when at the same time the Sacramento having slowed is much warmer and muddier. The Delta Marina is located on the Sacramento River in Rio Vista and will be undoubtedly affected by the lower water flows and warmer water.

At this time and for the past several years, we have been dealing with Egeria Densa. This plant was introduced into the Delta Waterways over 55 years ago and has continued to worsen. There was an article written by, Connie Cassinetto in October 2000 from the Northern Cal Focus magazine, identifying the weeds/plants that thrive on warmer waters. They include Egeria Densa, Hydrilla, Water Hyacinth and Water Pennywort, just to mention a few. These plants get wrapped up in propellers and plug up water intakes which can cause engines to overheat and it seems to love warm water. I am told that with even warmer water and slower flows we can be also looking at the possibility of a new threat in the form of a Toxic Algae, which would undoubtedly scare more of our guests out of spending time in our beautiful area. We have also been fighting Hyacinth for many years which means dragging it to the launch ramp, pulling it out of the water and loading it on a trailer, (and it is very heavy until it dry's) then hauling it to the outdoor storage yard, spreading it out and allowing it to dry, (and it can smell while drying) then dumping into a dumpster and paying to get it hauled off.

Another aspect for us to consider is with a lower flow there will be a higher salt content to the water in our marina which will bring in another set of problems for marina management and our guests. Because salt water is much more corrosive and the resale value of salt water boats (I am told) tends to be lower than fresh water boats. Changing from fresh water to salt water will mean changing any hardware that is not stainless, Painting outdrives with anti-fouling

paint, changing anodes from magnesium to zinc and flushing engines when used or retrofitting from raw water cooled engine used in fresh water to a heat exchanger used in salt water engines. Most of these fixes require the boat to be hauled out.

Also if barnacles attach themselves to your boat you can expect lower speeds with higher fuel costs due to more drag which also makes the engine run harder which creates more wear and more frequent haul outs for engine repairs and/or bottom scrubbing.

In closing, the tunnels project would be very damaging to the Delta as it would affect both farming and recreation, two of the main industries. It would affect the tax base which effects all citizens which could lead to a lower quality of life from its effect on services and infrastructure throughout the region.

Thank You,
Jim Baumann
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