

June 20, 2016

Anna Swenson
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To: State Water Resources Control Board

**POLICY STATEMENT – AGAINST THE CALIFORNIA WATERFIX- 3 PROPOSED
NEW INTAKES ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER**

I live in village of Clarksburg just across the river from where one of the intakes is proposed. I have 5 children who attend school in Clarksburg. We participate in the many community activities here such as the 4th of July Parade, The Parade of Lights, the community garden, Clarksburg Community Church, The Clarksburg Library weekly events, and the Clarksburg Country Run. Our community is our second family and farming plays a large role in the daily life of our town. We follow farm equipment down the narrow, tree-lined levee roads. We watch as our neighbors bring the pears, tomatoes, grapes and alfalfa to harvest. We celebrate births and achievements together, and we as a community grieve and remember those who are no longer with us. Life here in Clarksburg is peaceful and quiet with the exception of the local volunteer firehouse alarm that alerts our volunteers to drop what they are doing and report to an emergency. Our post office is the town hub. The main source of local information and communication. This is one of the few places on earth where I feel that children are safe. When people discover Clarksburg they often say the same thing “Wow this is Mayberry!” and they are right.

One of my many concerns about the Tunnels/CA Water fix is the impact of noise from the 14-year construction process in building the tunnels. I have yet to see any analysis of the cumulative noise level created by the project. Noise is mentioned throughout the plan from pile driving, vibrations and truck noise (idling, air brakes, hydraulic dump trucks, revving) that will be created by the construction of the tunnels and intakes. Traffic will increase by 10-fold with trucks coming and going at a rate of one truck every 5 seconds from 6 am to 7 pm for the next 14 years. I am also concerned that other sources of noise, including the tunnel boring equipment, vibrations from pile driving and other sources have not been factored into the cumulative unmitigated negative effects not only on Clarksburg, but also on the other legacy towns near the project. The delta is flat and open, with few trees or structures to interrupt sound. This means that sound travels far in Clarksburg, we can hear concert noise from West Sacramento 14.7 miles away clear as day. How will my children be able to learn if that much noise is surrounding them during daylight hours? Will such continuous construction noise harm their hearing? Sadly, our community will be prohibited from outdoor – and in many cases indoor activities – because of the noise – tearing apart our town’s traditions and the connections that create the community relations we appreciate so much.

According to the website called DangerousDecibels.org, the maximum decibels a person should be exposed to for no longer than 8 hours a day is 85.

According to the California Department of Transportation's "[Compendium of Pile Driving Sound Data](#)" pile driving in water can create decibel levels above 200.

I am asking for the following Mitigation actions if the permit is approved:

1. Complete noise evaluation of the Cumulative Noise from the project before permit is issued. Based upon the results of the evaluation, the sphere of negative impact of the noise needs to be evaluated and residents of affected areas such as the Pocket, Greenhaven, Elk Grove, South Sacramento should be notified and allowed time to comment on the permit.
2. Project construction to include sound barriers constructed first around any and all farming and residential areas, with special attention given to churches, schools, libraries and community gardens. Such barriers need to be proven to reduce the noise effect by at least 70%. These must be visually pleasing and not compromise the beauty of this area.
3. Adjust the construction hours to no more than 5 hours a day 5 days a week to reduce the effect of noise on the residents.
4. 24-hr. live toll-free construction Hotline that is answered by a live person to deal with noise and other issues that will arise. Full notification of the hotline should be distributed by USPS mail, email and phone calls to all affected residents.
5. Eliminate or minimize any and all construction equipment that creates noise above 85 unless it is monitored and discontinued after 5 hours of use.
6. Establish a program that provides to all affected residents with free hearing exams and a trust established to pay for any hearing injury to residents as a result of the dramatically increased noise.

Thank you,

Anna Swenson
Resident of Clarksburg, CA

Continuous dB

85 dB
88 dB
91 dB
94 dB
97 dB
100 dB
103 dB
106 dB
109 dB
112 dB
115 dB

Permissible Exposure Time



8 Hours
4 hours
2 hours
1 hour
30 minutes
15 minutes
7.5 minutes
3.75 minutes (< 4 min)
1.875 minutes (< 2 min)
.9375 min (~ 1 min)
.46875 min (~ 30 sec)

