

Mr. Ajay Goyal, Project Manager
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room No. 252-18
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Nov 17, 2008

Dear Mr. Goyal,

I wish to submit my comments in opposition to the proposed Delta "flow control" project.

It is unfortunate that the public agencies which supposedly represent all the citizens of this state resort to legalese and double speak to hide their true intentions. It seems clear to us that fish are not the priority of this project. It is equally clear that paving the way for increased water exports out of the Delta is the priority of this proposed project. Over the years, we have experienced the accelerating fishery decline associated with water export pumping. The statistics representing fish killed on the intake screens is appalling. We have experienced pumping velocities which actually reverse tidal conditions. We do not agree that closing a gate(s) to retain incoming tidal water (thus converting tidal flow to one-way flow) will do anything to reduce or control salinity intrusion.

The only solution to Delta water issues will come when the amount of water to be exported is tied to the amount of water entering the system from the rivers which feed it. When inflows are up, pumping could be increased. When inflows are down, pumping should be curtailed or shut off entirely. Appropriate Delta water levels can be ascertained by applying statistical techniques to historical data. Salinity intrusion results from taking too much water out of the system, there is no rocket science involved. The large water districts that derive their prosperity from Delta water need to develop their own water generation and holding facilities commensurate with their needs, and stop draining the Delta to line their pockets.

No project should be contemplated that attempts in any way to modify the normal in/out tidal flow that is the natural condition of the Delta estuary. The only acceptable Delta change would be to increase the water export curtailment temporarily put into place by the courts.

I wish to register my very strong opposition to the notion that the proposed "flow control" project will do anything to constructively improve conditions for anyone other than the water districts who would drain the Delta dry if not controlled by the courts.

Sincerely

Thomas L. Coss

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