

# ***Your Help is Needed to . . .*** **Stop Governor Schwarzenegger's Peripheral Canal and Water Grab !!!**

***The water legislation/bills currently in the California State Legislature are objectionable and will unduly authorize . . .***

- Construction of a "peripheral" canal approximately the size of the Panama Canal, which will cost taxpayers (i.e. "beneficiaries") a \$15 - \$25 billion at a time when California is in its worst economic crisis ever and currently struggling to resolve a \$24 billion deficit.
- Private control of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through an exclusive one to five member Delta "governance" board appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger. This will include 66% of California's water supply and major portions of California's agricultural industry, and will be achieved without the approval or vote of the citizens of California.
- Implementation of the flawed Delta Vision Strategic Plan, whose dogma will dictate the administration and future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The published Delta Vision recognizes many of its projections and suppositions are inconclusive at best, stating "there is not sufficient information" and "specific information . . . is still incomplete" regarding many elements of the proposed goals and plan.
- Further degradation and erosion of the Delta's ecological and environmental resources through increased water salinization resulting in additional decline and possible extinction of Delta smelt and American River spawning salmon among other endangered fish species.
- Diversion of much if not most of the Sacramento River water above the Delta, which will result in the destruction of prime Delta agricultural land from major saltwater intrusion and the creation of saltwater marshes just below Sacramento (similar to Highway 37 between Vallejo and Highway 101).
- Redirecting precious fresh water resources from prime agricultural land in the northern Delta to water-intensive and toxic desert agricultural regions in the Central Valley and Southern California, thus further compromising California's access to available fresh water and decreasing food availability while increasing food prices. (The Delta and Sacramento Valley are considered significant elements of both the Sacramento and Bay Area food sheds.)
- Confiscation of agricultural land and water rights from long-time Delta residents and farmers through eminent domain. A number of these families are fifth generation Californians and among California's earliest settlers.

## ***We Need Your Help!***

Please help save the Delta by:

- **Participating in the August 16 Million Boat Float boat flotilla up the Delta from Antioch (or down the Sacramento River from the north) to convene in Sacramento and/or attending the Million Boat Float rallies and demonstrations on August 16 at 7 p.m. on the waterfront and August 17 at 9 a.m. around the Capitol and 11 a.m. at the Capitol. See [www.millionboatfloat.org](http://www.millionboatfloat.org) to confirm times and locations.**
- Contacting your State Senator and Assemblyperson to tell them you are opposed to a peripheral canal and do not want major water decisions made without adequate time for public input and consent. Find your legislators' names and contact information at <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/> or the State Capitol switchboard (916) 657-4005. Insist there be public hearings on water bills and to stop this "rush, rush, hush, hush" process. Sen. Darrell Steinberg's number is 651-4006. (See a sample letter on reverse.)
- **Attending the major public legislative hearing on the Delta Water Bills on Tuesday, August 18 at 9:00 a.m. (arrive by 8:00 a.m. to get a seat) at the State Capitol, 10<sup>th</sup> & L Sts., Room 4202. We need as many people there as possible. Please tell your friends and family - and spread the word!**
- Contacting Governor Schwarzenegger's office at (916) 445-2841, or write to State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814 or <http://www.govmail.ca.gov> to.
- Writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or other creative actions.

**For more information contact Save the Delta at (916) 761-4726 or go to [www.organicssacramento.org](http://www.organicssacramento.org).**

## Background

In an apparent attempt to control California's primary source of water and destroy rich agricultural land in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Senator Darrell Steinberg is currently spearheading the creation of legislation which will authorize the implementation of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan and subsequently permit the construction of a peripheral canal, handing over 66% of Californians' water to the private sector. This legislation is being rushed through the California legislature, without any opportunity for input by the public to date, and may be voted on by the full legislature as early as mid-to-late July. This needs to be stopped now – and we need your help !! Please alert your friends and family and ask them to let their legislators know this is wrong and unacceptable. Thanks for any help you can give!

## Sample Letter

(date)

Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger/Senator/Assemblyman \_\_\_\_\_  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger/Senator/Assemblyman/ \_\_\_\_\_:

As a resident of California, I am deeply concerned about the current attempt to enact legislation recognizing the Delta Vision Strategic Plan (DVSP) as the ultimate authority for deciding the future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Not only would adoption of the DVSP allow the creation of a “governance” body, which would place the control of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California's largest water system, into the hands of only a small number of individuals, approve “blank check” implementation of the incomplete Bay Delta Conservation Plan, but it would also do so arbitrarily and without the consent of the citizens of California.

Additionally, adoption of the DVSP would result in the building of a peripheral canal – a proposal Californians overwhelmingly rejected at the polls in 1982 – and would subject the public to extraordinary taxes and/or increases in water fees to pay the projected \$15 - \$25 billion construction costs – and at a time when California is in the middle of its worst economic crisis and already struggling to resolve a \$24 billion deficit.

The DVSP's goals are also very vague and lacking in specific details and the Blue Ribbon Task Force's Vision for the California Delta recognizes that data to support many of the recommendations addressed in the DVSP is inconclusive at best, stating “there is not sufficient information” to guarantee outcomes and that “specific information about water quality, costs, seismic risk, or meeting species protection laws is still incomplete.”

It is essential that the decisions and processes for creating future management of the Delta are transparent, not rushed, and brought to a vote before the people of California. I strongly encourage you to oppose any legislation which will recognize or give Delta governance authority to a governor-appointed governance board or allow implementation of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan or any of its proposed goals, or authorize a peripheral canal or “alternative conveyance” system which diverts water from the Delta or changes the course of current Delta channels.

Respectfully,  
(name)

## Additional Resources

Million Boat Float – [www.millionboatfloat.org](http://www.millionboatfloat.org)  
Restore the Delta – [www.restorethedelta.org](http://www.restorethedelta.org)  
Aquaforia – [www.aquaforia.com](http://www.aquaforia.com)

Organic Sacramento – [www.organicsacramento.org](http://www.organicsacramento.org)  
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance – [www.calsport.org](http://www.calsport.org)  
Friends of the River – [www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org)