



February 7, 2023

Zachary Simmons, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch
DLL-DCP-EIS@usace.army.mil

Re: Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Simmons:

I am writing to submit comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel).

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has been actively pursuing unsustainable isolated water conveyance infrastructure that would remove freshwater flows from the Delta for the benefit of other parts of the state since the 1980's. The Delta Tunnel is the latest iteration, however, many of the impacts that plagued previous versions (the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and California WaterFix) are still present in the Delta Tunnel.

The DEIS is inadequate and fails to inform the public of the true extent of the environmental impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I understand that the state faces a difficult task in combating the current water crisis. However, the Delta Tunnel would create a sacrifice zone in the Delta region from the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the project.

We request additional time for community comments. With the Holiday's and recent flooding events all over the state, the current extension does not allow enough time for all those that would be negatively impacted by this project to be heard. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and DWR need to extend the comment period and hold in person hearings to actually hear from the public on this project.

The DEIS does not adequately analyze and mitigate the impacts on Delta communities. The project does not create any new water and would destroy nearly 3,800 acres of highly productive Delta farmland, which currently helps feed the people of California and helps drive the San Joaquin County economy. The project would increase the salinity of the Delta water up to 40% and increase toxic algae blooms. A so-called "Community Benefits Program" cannot address the very real impacts to residents during and after construction. This is unacceptable given the extensive and lasting impacts the project would have on the quality of life in the



region. For example, criteria and toxic air pollutants, including particulate matter, would increase, and at times double, as a result of project construction, endangering the health of Delta residents. Additionally, many Delta residents and businesses would be exposed to years of construction noise and traffic, degrading quality of life, harming tourism and recreation and causing loss of business revenues.

We urge the Corps to continue to consider alternatives to the Delta Tunnel, especially those projects and actions that can meet water supply needs without destroying the Delta. We urge you to also consider the “no project alternative” as described in the DEIS. Moving forward with the Delta Tunnel would be catastrophic for San Joaquin County and the Delta Region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project and please add me to the notice list.

Sincerely,

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CC:
Congressman Josh Harder
Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman
Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua
Assemblymember Health Flora
San Joaquin County Supervisor Robert Rickman
San Joaquin County Supervisor Miguel Villapudua
San Joaquin County Supervisor Paul Canepa
San Joaquin County Supervisor Tom Patti
San Joaquin County Supervisor Steven J. Ding
City of Stockton Mayor Kevin Lincoln

