



November 13, 2020

Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expy
San Jose, CA 95118

Chair Hsueh and Board Members,

The Sierra Club has been working for several years to promote sustainable approaches to future water supply in the State of California. We strongly believe our state and local agencies need to prioritize projects and approaches that are least damaging to the environment, have the least impact on disadvantaged communities, are most cost effective, and are most helpful in mitigating our climate emergency.

We ask that you keep the following points in mind as you discuss and decide which projects in Valley Water's water supply scenario you will and will not continue to pursue given the significant decrease in projected water demands in Santa Clara County.

1. Valley Water needs to remove projects from the water supply portfolio that will result in future over-investment and stranded assets. It is important to avoid unnecessary costs and water rate increases that could burden future generations.
2. Large construction projects are most damaging to the environment, indigenous land and culture, and environmental justice communities. Not only do these projects damage valuable habitat and natural/working lands at the construction site, they also require large amounts of materials to be extracted elsewhere and transported to the project location, resulting in increased emissions that contribute to climate change.
3. It is increasingly important to evaluate environmental and social justice impacts when evaluating projects to include in the Water Supply Master Plan portfolio going forward. The potential for cost escalation must be part of this evaluation to avoid substantial water rate increases in the future. Large construction projects that require extensive land disturbance and are still early in the design phase have high potential for increasing costs and rate impacts going forward. These projects include the Delta Conveyance, Sites Reservoir, and Pacheco Reservoir.
4. Reducing reliance on the Delta is an important statewide policy and re-evaluation of the water supply project portfolio provides Valley Water with an extraordinary opportunity to adhere to and further this policy by prioritizing local and regional water supply.

Moreover, we believe the following recommendations should and can be implemented immediately to allow Valley Water to meet water supply demand in a sustainable, cost-effective, and equitable manner:

1. **Reduce participation in the Delta Conveyance project.** To reduce investment risks and future extreme rate increases, remove the CVP portion of Delta Conveyance Project from consideration as part of the investment scenario.
2. **Prioritize water conservation, recycled water, and stormwater capture.** These supplies are least damaging to the environment and best for mitigating climate change and providing resilience in the face of climate change impacts on water supply. Consider including distributed approaches such as onsite and district scale recycling and stormwater retention. We note that the Monitoring and Assessment evaluation presented on October 27 indicated that future water demand can be met using these approaches.
3. **Rethink the water supply investment scenario through the lens of environmental and social justice.** It appears that the WEAP analysis does not consider either environmental justice or climate change impacts (GHG emissions) to evaluate scenarios. We encourage Valley Water to evaluate these impacts and use this information to prioritize alternatives that limit water rate increases, impacts on indigenous culture, and impacts on climate change and resource extraction moving forward.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Brandon Dawson
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California



Katja Irvin
Water Committee, Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter



November 13, 2020

SCVWD Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Submitted via email

Re: Delta Conveyance Project

Dear Board of Directors:

On behalf of Sierra Club California and our more than 500,000 members and supporters statewide, **we write to urge you not to fund this next phase of the Delta Conveyance (aka the Delta Tunnel) project.**

Our members, supporters, and staff are well-versed in California's efforts to develop and implement smart, equitable water policies that support our communities and economy while also protecting the state's precious environment. And with this knowledge and experience, we routinely participate in the necessary public processes and forums that can yield resilient and sustainable water management policies for all Californians.

The Delta Tunnel project is estimated to cost \$16 billion, before inflation, and up to \$40 billion. Ratepayers will see higher water bills and property taxes with no guarantee of a sustainable water supply. The proposed expenditure request from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is made at a time when the state is struggling with the pandemic and economic recession. It also comes at a time when climate change suggests that dependence on imported water is less viable and less sustainable than ever.

Instead of supporting the tunnel, we urge you to push the Department of Water Resources to help develop plans for meeting California's water demand without the tunnel. Those projects would include improvements made to existing infrastructure around the state, and investments in local, sustainable water sourcing through conservation, groundwater remediation and recharge, water recycling, stormwater capture, and inland brackish water desalination. These improvements will make the need for the tunnel obsolete while creating local jobs and continuing to reduce water demand.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to work with you in this process.

Sincerely,

Brandon Dawson
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California

Charming Evelyn
Sierra Club California Water Committee Co-Chair



November 16, 2020

Board of Directors
Valley Water
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

Dear Board Members of Valley Water:

At this week's board meeting, you have an opportunity to advance important planning and permitting work needed to advance the Delta Conveyance Project. I urge your support.

As you know, the State Water Project (SWP) provides the Santa Clara Valley with a reliable source of affordable, high-quality water. This water supply supports the local economy and enables technology, tourism, and agricultural industries to thrive.

As you continue the vital work of diversifying water supplies and boosting your local water resilience, we must continue to work together to maintain the reliability of water provided by the SWP that is the backbone of your region's water supply. SWP provides a reliable surface water source that enables water recycling and replenishment of groundwater aquifers to avoid subsidence and develop dry-year reserves. It provides critical water security as the district continues to explore new water supply sources which will lead to greater resilience.

Science tells us that surface water supplies for much of the state, provided by rain and snow runoff from the Sierra Nevada mountains and delivered through the SWP, are at risk. Climate change is bringing dramatic changes to our hydrology, including warmer, flashier storms with higher peak water flows. The SWP conveyance system faces risks from levee breaks, climate-driven sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and earthquake. Modernizing conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta—as well as other parts of the state—is critical to maintain system reliability in changing conditions.

Your leadership on this project has been integral to the progress made to date. The work you do as a part of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority has been invaluable, particularly your commitment to working with Delta communities to ensure transparency and openness as we advance planning and permitting for the project.

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax. 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



Page 2

I respectfully urge your ongoing leadership in this important infrastructure modernization project. I look forward to our continued collaboration to shore up this backbone water infrastructure while diversifying water sources and deepening water efficiency and conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade Crowfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for California Natural Resources

Cc:

Michele King, Clerk of the Board
Rick Callender, Chief Executive Officer
Aaron Baker, Chief of Water Utility
Cindy Kao, Imported Water Manager
Bart Broome, Director of State Government Relations

Michele King

From: Mark Rubin <markrubin6@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Please vote no on the Delta tunnel tomorrow Nov 17

Hello Santa Clara Valley Water District

I am writing to encourage the Board to please vote no tomorrow Nov 17 on the proposed Delta water tunnel. The billions of dollars would be much better spent cleaning up groundwater storage and developing underground aquifers storage as well as improving above ground storage to restore natural fish population movement.

Thank you,

Mark Rubin

650-329-8747

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Michele King

From: system-generated@valleywater.org on behalf of Santa Clara Valley Water <system-generated@valleywater.org>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Mon, 11/16/2020 - 1:11 PM

Submitted values are:

Name

Charles Karish

Address

1699 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, California. 94301-3820

Email

chuck.karish@gmail.com

Board Meeting Date

2020-11-17

Agenda Item Number

71

I would like to

Express Opposition

Comment Form

I urge the Board not to approve participation in the Delta Conveyance Project. Residents of the Santa Clara Valley should not pay for construction of the Delta tunnel, with the degradation it will cause of the environment in our region, for the benefit primarily of agribusiness in the San Joaquin Valley. No amount of water will ever be enough for them. It's folly to subsidize them.

Michele King

From: Shannon Rose <shannonrmcentee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Agenda Item tomorrow - VOTE NO on the next phase of the Delta Tunnel project

Dear Board Members,

I urge you to vote NO on funding the next phase of the Delta Tunnel project.

DWR claims that the single tunnel project will offer water supply reliability with the least amount of environmental damage possible. In reality, the tunnel project offers NO reliability, incurs MASSIVE environmental damage, decimates Delta communities, and results in HIGHER water costs for southern Californians.

The Board should urge DWR to seriously analyze the “Commonsense” alternative that includes no construction of the tunnel and prioritizes investment in- and the use of- projects and technologies that reuse, recycle and conserve local and regional water supplies. Local and regional water supplies are the only supplies that are truly resilient to the uncertainties of climate change and seismic risks. These projects should include expanding stormwater capture, cleaning up filthy groundwater, incentivizing water efficiency, and reducing the need of importing water from the Bay-Delta.

Californians value the protection and preservation of our unique natural resources. A “commonsense” alternative protects the Delta by reducing the need for Delta exports and allowing more water to flow through the ecosystem for the benefit of Delta salmon, smelt and other fish species as well as all the wildlife that depend on the ecosystem.

Construction of a Delta Tunnel will ensure decreased species populations and the Delta’s decline. It will also result in high expenditure with little benefit.

Californians value the state’s regional diversity and do not prioritize one region’s needs over the public health or quality of life of another. A “commonsense” alternative emphasizes local projects - projects that don’t depend on depleting another region’s natural resources and subjecting that region to poor air quality, bad water quality, and impaired quality of life.

If the single tunnel project is built, California can count on a rapid decline of water quality and economic health in the Stockton region, a stagnation of the San Francisco Bay, and a heavier ratepayer burden without improved water access in Southern California.

Thank you for your important work. Again, please vote NO.

Shannon Rose McEntee

Palo Alto, CA

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From: [Clerk of the Board](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: Just say "No!" to the Delta Tunnel
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:48:28 AM

For the board meeting.

Michelle Critchlow, Executive Assistant to
Michele King, Clerk of the Board
Office of the Clerk of the Board
Tel. (408) 630-2883 / Cell. (408) 394-2970

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118
www.valleywater.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Grady <michaelfgrady@alumni.stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:51 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: Just say "No!" to the Delta Tunnel

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I write to ask the Santa Clara County Water District Board to vote AGAINST funding the next phase of Delta Conveyance planning.

The Board should push the Department of Water Resources for a scenario that does NOT include a tunnel, but does include investment in local and regional projects that will result in less dependence on Bay-Delta water. Those projects should include improvements made to existing infrastructure around the state, and investments in local, sustainable water sourcing- like conservation, groundwater remediation and recharge through water recycling, stormwater capture, and brackish water desalination.

The Delta Tunnel project is estimated to cost \$16 billion, before inflation, and up to \$40 billion. Ratepayers will see higher water bills and property taxes with no guarantee of a sustainable water supply. The proposed expenditure request from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is made at a time when the state is struggling with the pandemic and economic recession. It also comes at a time when climate change suggests that dependence on imported water is less viable and less sustainable than ever. Stop sending Northern California's water to Southern California!

DWR claims that the single tunnel project will offer water supply reliability with the least amount of environmental damage possible. But in reality, the tunnel project offers NO reliability, incurs MASSIVE environmental damage, decimates Delta communities, and results in HIGHER water costs.

The Board should urge DWR to seriously analyze the "Commonsense" alternative that includes no construction of the tunnel and prioritizes investment in- and the use of- projects and technologies that reuse, recycle and conserve local and regional water supplies. Local and regional water supplies are the only supplies that are truly resilient to the uncertainties of climate change and seismic risks. These projects should include expanding stormwater capture, cleaning up filthy groundwater, incentivizing water efficiency, and reducing the need of importing water from the Bay-Delta.

Californians value the protection and preservation of our unique natural resources. A "commonsense" alternative protects the Delta by reducing the need for Delta exports and allowing more water to flow through the ecosystem for the benefit of Delta salmon, smelt and other fish species as well as all the wildlife that depend on the ecosystem. Construction of a Delta Tunnel will ensure decreased species populations and the Delta's decline. It will also result in high expenditure with little benefit.

Californians value the state's regional diversity and DWR should not prioritize one region's needs over the public health or quality of life of another. A "commonsense" alternative emphasizes local projects - projects that don't depend on depleting another region's natural resources and subjecting that region to poor air quality, bad water quality, and impaired quality of life.

If the single tunnel project is built, California can count on a rapid decline of water quality and economic health in the Stockton region, a stagnation of the San Francisco Bay.

Sincerely,
Michael Grady

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Clerk of the Board](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: oppose Delta Tunnel, please
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:48:41 AM

For the board meeting

Michelle Critchlow, Executive Assistant to
Michele King, Clerk of the Board
Office of the Clerk of the Board
Tel. (408) 630-2883 / Cell. (408) 394-2970

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118
www.valleywater.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Leah Halper <LHalper@garlic.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:10 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: oppose Delta Tunnel, please

Please vote against further funding for the Delta Conveyance plan.

Please push the Dept of Water Resources to make plans for NOT having this destructive tunnel. Instead they should be investing on projects that will decrease our need for Bay and Delta waters. This project is far too costly and will hurt efforts to allay climate change. Please keep me posted on your voting schedules and outcomes.

Leah Halper, Gilroy

From: [Clerk of the Board](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: Bay Delta Conveyance
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:48:57 AM

For the board meeting

Michelle Critchlow, Executive Assistant to
Michele King, Clerk of the Board
Office of the Clerk of the Board
Tel. (408) 630-2883 / Cell. (408) 394-2970

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118
www.valleywater.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary McVey Gill <marymcveygill@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: Bay Delta Conveyance

I would like to urge the board to vote NO on funding the Bay Delta Conveyance. It's hugely expensive and we are experiencing a pandemic and also a tremendous drain on the state's budget.

I grew up near Sacramento and spent a lot of time in the Delta area when I was young. Why destroy a giant swath of that beautiful area with this boondoggle? It will not create more water and will harm the ecology of the Delta. It will also have a negative impact on the San Francisco Bay. There are many other ways to deal with the need for water, and they have all been discussed and described many times before the board.

Sincerely,

Mary Gill
734 San Rafael Place
Stanford CA 94305
650 857 0593

From: [Michele King](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:59:47 AM

From: system-generated@valleywater.org <system-generated@valleywater.org>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Mon, 11/16/2020 - 5:18 PM

Submitted values are:

Name

Robert Mackenzie

Address

1568 Burrell Ct
San Jose, California. 95126

Telephone

(408) 249-3848

Email

rb_mackenzie@icloud.com

Board Meeting Date

2020-11-17

Agenda Item Number

1

I would like to

Express Opposition

Comment Form

I urge the board to vote no to further funding or study of the Delta Tunnel project. Cost estimates are high, with likely overruns, and this effort to address urban sprawl in southern California will come at the expense of local ecosystems.

From: [Michele King](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: Delta Tunnel Project
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:01:44 AM

From: Dennis Fox <dennis.james.fox@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: Delta Tunnel Project

I want to encourage the Santa Clara Valley Water District board to stop any and all support for the Delta Tunnel Project. The detrimental effects this project will have on the delta environment are far too serious to ignore and any benefits that might be imagined if it should be completed will be negated by our changing climate. The money saved by abandoning this massive boondoggle will be better spent on more sound and realistic projects.

Dennis Fox, 2428 Pebble Beach Drive, San Jose -- 408-265-1019

From: [Michele King](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:31:50 AM

From: system-generated@valleywater.org <system-generated@valleywater.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Tue, 11/17/2020 - 9:53 AM

Submitted values are:

Name

Arlene Nunez Garcia

Address

50 Washington St
Santa Clara, California. 95050

Telephone

(714) 720-7252

Email

arlenejnunez@gmail.com

Agency, Business or Group (if applicable)

Environmental Resource Center, SJSU

Board Meeting Date

2020-11-17

Agenda Item Number

2.3

I would like to

Express Opposition

Comment Form

Valley Water should NOT allocate funds towards Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, Sites Reservoir Project, and especially the Delta Conveyance Project. According to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), annual water usage drastically varies. California's central and southern regions largely allocate their water resources to urban and agriculture use, and are now asking for water

diversion that is unsustainable for environmental and economic reasons. These projects also threaten to impose greater environmental injustices to the communities whose water resources are going to be depleted.

Valley Water should not support and should not allocate any funds towards these water projects.

From: [Michele King](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:36:15 AM

From: system-generated@valleywater.org <system-generated@valleywater.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Tue, 11/17/2020 - 9:59 AM

Submitted values are:

Name

Daniela Barriga

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Santa Clara, California. 95050

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dbdaniela78@gmail.com

Board Meeting Date

2020-11-17

Agenda Item Number

2.3

I would like to

Express Opposition

Comment Form

Valley Water should NOT allocate funds towards Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, Sites Reservoir Project, and especially the Delta Conveyance Project. Large diversions of water resources are highly unsustainable and threaten to deplete these sources as well as impact local communities. If anything, project funds should go towards rebuilding infrastructures to better support the central and southern regions of California's thirsty agriculture and urban sectors. Valley Water should NOT allocate funds towards Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, Sites Reservoir Project, and especially the Delta Conveyance Project.

From: [Michele King](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 11:33:08 AM

From: system-generated@valleywater.org <system-generated@valleywater.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Tue, 11/17/2020 - 10:40 AM

Submitted values are:

Name

Samantha Benavides

Address

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samanthabenavides.22@gmail.com

Board Meeting Date

2020-11-17

Agenda Item Number

2.3

I would like to

Express Opposition

Comment Form

Valley Water should NOT allocate funds towards the Delta Conveyance Project.

From: [Michele King](#)
To: [Michele King](#)
Subject: FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 11:42:24 AM

From: system-generated@valleywater.org <system-generated@valleywater.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Subject: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Tue, 11/17/2020 - 11:28 AM

Submitted values are:

Name

Alberto Carranza

Address

1421 E San Antonio St
San Jose , California. 95166

Telephone

(323) 395-7811

Email

carranzaalberto14@gmail.com

Board Meeting Date

2020-11-17

Agenda Item Number

2.3

I would like to

Express Opposition

Comment Form

Valley Water should NOT allocate funds towards the Delta Conveyance Project.

