

**Max Overland**

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**Subject:** FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

**From:** Santa Clara Valley Water <[system-generated@valleywater.org](mailto:system-generated@valleywater.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 4:49 PM

**To:** Clerk of the Board <[clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org](mailto:clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org)>

**Subject:** SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on Mon, 01/13/2025 - 4:48 PM

Submitted values are:

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Sierra Club

**Board Meeting Date**

2025-01-14

**Agenda Item Number**

3.5

**I would like to**

Express Opposition

**Comment Form**

Please vote no on Item 3.5

Please vote no to continue funding the Delta Tunnel project's planning and design work, which is projected to cost Valley Water an additional \$9.69 million.

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**Max Overland**

**Subject:** FW: 01/14/25 Item 3.5. Delta Conveyance Funding Public Comment

**From:** Katja Irvin <[katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 4:34 PM  
**To:** Clerk of the Board <[clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org](mailto:clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org)>; John Varela <[jvarela@valleywater.org](mailto:jvarela@valleywater.org)>; Shiloh Ballard <[shiloh@shilohballard.com](mailto:shiloh@shilohballard.com)>; Richard Santos <[rsantos@valleywater.org](mailto:rsantos@valleywater.org)>; Jim Beall <[JBeall@valleywater.org](mailto:JBeall@valleywater.org)>; Nai Hsueh <[NHsueh@valleywater.org](mailto:NHsueh@valleywater.org)>; Tony Estremera <[TEstremera@valleywater.org](mailto:TEstremera@valleywater.org)>; Rebecca Eisenberg <[Reisenberg@valleywater.org](mailto:Reisenberg@valleywater.org)>  
**Subject:** 01/14/25 Item 3.5. Delta Conveyance Funding Public Comment

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Dear Chair Estremera and Board Members,

Please consider how much risk is associated with the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). It is a sure thing there will be further cost increases and schedule delays, and the benefits are unpredictable. The Project is currently only at the preliminary design stage. CEQA review and water rights are being challenged. And DWR has already indicated that the Project will not be complete until at least 2055.

The graph below from the Monitoring and Assessment Program 2021 – Project Risk Assessment shows that the DCP is the most risky project for Valley Water, even riskier than Pacheco Reservoir in most categories.

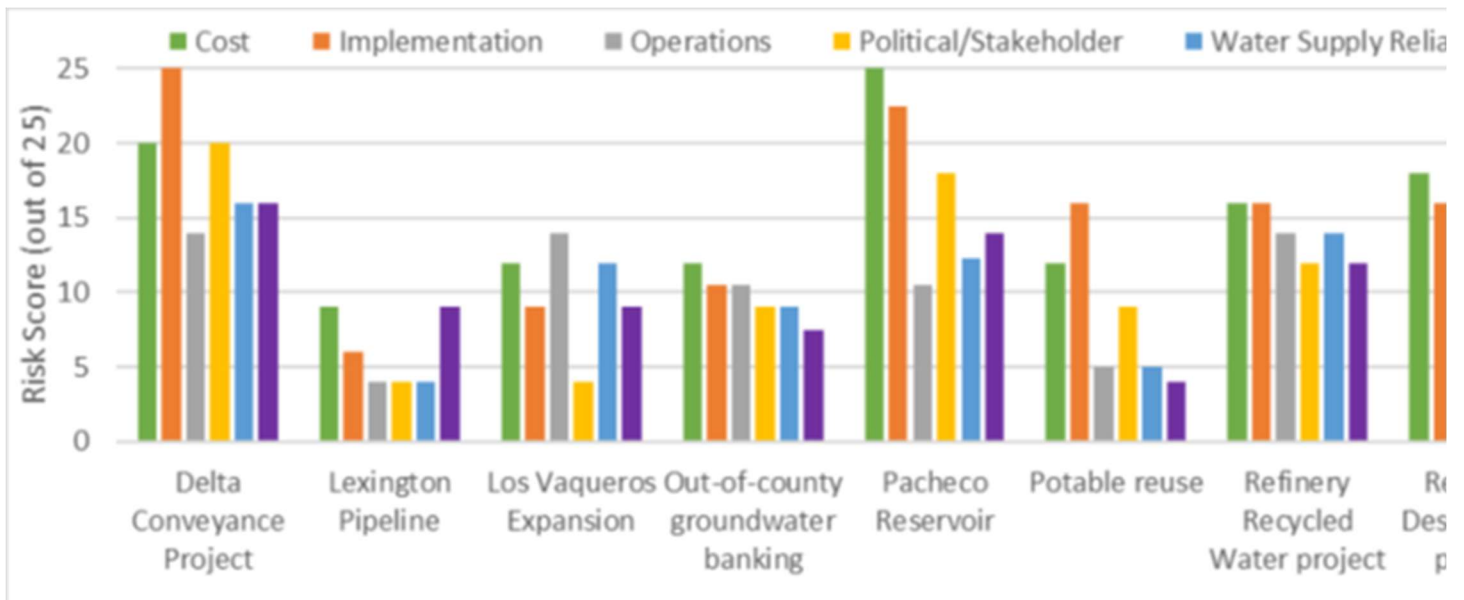


FIGURE 3. PROJECT RISK SCORE BY CATEGORY.

<https://scvwd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5186615&GUID=416421D9-406F-4949-9CD2-AEC50CA2C916>

DCP timeline and cost are sure to increase as the project advances through design and permitting and lawsuits. We can see how this happens with large projects like the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project. Even without lawsuits, the cost for Anderson Dam has tripled since 2021 and the schedule has slipped. The DCP is a much

larger and more complicated project, indicating many more cost increases and schedule delays. It is likely the final cost will be at least \$40B.

Benefits are not guaranteed as the hydrology of California continues to change with global warming. Justifiable permit conditions may also impact the feasibility of the project. Valley Water analysis has shown that SWP exports from the Delta could decrease by 600,000 acre-feet per year (about 27%) by 2045 due to climate change and regulatory changes (from Valley Water Drought Response Framework DRAFT Report, May 2024).

Continuing with the DCP is risky and the benefits are questionable. Other solutions such as conservation and reuse are more likely to succeed and can be implemented before 2050 (within the timeframe of Valley Water's Water Supply Master Plan 2050), before any possible water supply benefits from the DCP would be realized.

The most realistic solution would be to stop investing in the DCP now. At least, **it would be prudent to wait until September to make this decision, when there will be more information about the status of the water rights application, the Delta Tribal Environmental Coalition's Title VI complaint, and the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan.**

At very least, **Valley Water needs to request more oversight of this project for the activities to be completed with this current round of funding,** through 2027. Interim milestones need to be developed and tracked on at least an annual basis. For example, there should be milestones for 30%, 60%, and 90% design completion and cost and schedule updates should be provided when these milestones are completed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katja Irvin  
San Jose Resident