

Melissa Stone

From: Dave Yost [daveyostcom@gmail.com] on behalf of Dave Yost [Dave@Yost.com]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 8:09 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: 11/13 BDCP Meeting Comment

I agree with this.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sierra Club - Sierra Club California <kyle.jones@sierraclub.org>
Subject: Don't Let the Santa Clara Valley Water District Raise Taxes to Destroy the Delta!
Date: 2015-11-06 Fri at 4:59:44 PM PST
To: Sierra Club - Sierra Club California <alert@sierraclub.org>
Reply-To: Sierra Club - Sierra Club California <kyle.jones@sierraclub.org>

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is preparing to raise property taxes to build big tunnels that won't deliver new water, but will damage the environment in the San Francisco Bay Delta.

Tell the district's board of directors that they need to stop this nonsense. Tell the district to stop supporting a project that will cost tens of billions, harm the environment and NOT provide any solutions to the region's water problems.

Show up at the water district's meeting on November 13, 2015 at 10AM and tell the board to:

1. Stop using ratepayer funds and stop raising property taxes to pay for Delta-destroying tunnels
2. Stop abandoning conservation and keep funding turf replacement and other sustainable strategies to reduce water demand
3. Work to become water independent, instead of taking water from fish and wildlife

If you can't attend, comments can be submitted through e-mail at:

clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org. Be sure to use the subject line: 11/13 BDCP Meeting Comment, and tell the Board what you think about this costly and destructive plan.

Background:

The Brown administration is proposing to construct two giant 35-mile long, 4-story wide tunnels to divert water from the San Francisco Bay Delta. The tunnels will take water from the Sacramento River and bypass the Delta, degrading water quality and destroying fisheries and habitat.

At a recent SCVWD Board Meeting, staff presentations showed that property taxes for water are scheduled to more than double over the next nine years. Water from the Delta is getting more expensive, and adding the cost of the tunnels project--projected to be a minimum \$15 billion project will only make things worse. These estimates fail to account for inevitable cost overruns that SCVWD and its ratepayers will be on the hook for as well.

Fees for the tunnels will provide ratepayers with an environmental disaster, but will not secure any new or additional water supplies. If water is diverted before it flows through the Delta, fish and wildlife in the Delta will be imperiled as water becomes increasingly stagnant and salty.

None of the water taken from the Delta will increase what SCVWD is allotted to receive. As climate change wreaks havoc on California's hydrology, the tunnels will likely become emptier due to less water available in the north of the state.

Instead of tunneling under the Delta, SCVWD should focus ratepayer funds on sustainable water solutions. There are much more cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternatives to the tunnels. A recent turf replacement program was able to remove 8 million sq. ft. of water intensive lawns, but is shutting down for lack of funding. Continuing with conservation and expanding efficient appliance use will help save water use in homes and businesses. Water recycling and stormwater capture can help SCVWD to become water independent from the Delta.

SCVWD has options when it comes to its water future: sustainable development in the face of climate change, or destroying the Delta by contributing to the tunnels. Let them know that they need to stop funding the tunnel project. Come to the Board meeting on November 13, 2015 at 10AM and voice your opinion on this plan. If you can't make it, send a comment to clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org. They need to hear from you.

To adjust your Sierra Club email preferences, please reply to this email with a description of your wishes. Thank you.

Sierra Club 85 Second St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105