



SIERRA CLUB
LOMA PRIETA

Handout 2.7-A, Irwin
8/22/17
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
Serving San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito Counties
Protecting Our Planet Since 1933

3921 East Bayshore Road, Suite 204
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
Meeting Tuesday August 22, 2017

**Item 2.7. Issues Facing the District's Imported Water Supply
and the Delta Ecosystem**

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 created a State policy to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency. However, to date we have not seen any District water supply plans that will do this.

The staff report states "The District's 2012 Water Supply Master Plan, adopted by the Board in October 2012, outlines a strategy for achieving long-term water supply reliability in Santa Clara County through 2035 by securing and optimizing the use of existing supplies and infrastructure, and meeting future increases in demand with water recycling and conservation. When implemented, the [District] strategy would reduce reliance on water imported through the Delta from about 40% to 30% of the total county water supply."

That is, the District plans will reduce the **percentage** of supply from the Delta, but with increased overall water consumption, the District plans show the County using the same amount of Delta water in 2040 as it did in the past, as follows.

- The Santa Clara Valley Water District 2012 Water Supply and Infrastructure Master Plan estimates Average Delta conveyed supply will remain at 170,000 AF through 2035 (Table 1. Average Water Supplies Through 2035, pg. 8), and
- The 2015 Urban Water Management Plan shows CVP and SWP Allocations growing to 175,300 AF per year by 2025 and staying at that level until 2040 (Table 6-6. Projected Average Water Supplies, pg. 6-11).

These plans do not support the policy of the State to reduce reliance on the Delta. Instead, the District could commit to providing for growth within recent supply and demand volumes and thereby actually reduce the County's reliance as required by the Delta Reform Act. SFPUC, BAWSCA, and Alameda County Water District have recently changed assumptions to use this approach.

In contrast to the District's plans, today's staff presentation says "District's imported water supplies have declined overtime [sic] and can be expected to decline more in the future." It should be of concern to all of us that our County's water supply plans don't include any expectation that imported water supplies will decline. The latest data shows there will be less water available for export in 2040 when the WaterFix is finally completed.

The District will spend billions on the WaterFix and will receive less water. The billions would be better spent on local and regional projects that can be completed sooner and whose outcome can then be evaluated to see if this risky behemoth project is necessary.

Thank you for taking your time to consider how to invest in water supply and demand reduction projects.

Katja Irvin, AICP
Water Committee Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Endangered Species

Staff report says "neither California EcoRestore nor the State's two resiliency strategies are expected to result in full recovery for these threatened and endangered fish species." Increased flows and reduce diversions will also be required.



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Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
Meeting Tuesday July 11, 2017

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Comment Item 2.8
WaterFix Update

Request discussion of cost to Santa Clara County property owners

The Sierra Club is concerned that the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) has no plans to discuss how Santa Clara County property owners will pay for the WaterFix project. Staff's April 11, 2017 presentation on Groundwater Production & Other Water Charges stated that State Water Project (SWP) property tax increases would begin in Fiscal Year 2019 and incremental tax for an average single-family residence would be \$13/year by Fiscal Year 2027.

We think this information should be fleshed out and the Board and the public should have time to ask questions. Some of our questions are as follows:

1. What is the range of tax increases for single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, and other types of properties?
2. Can projected increases be provided beyond 2027 through the end of construction and into the operations phase?
3. How do parcel taxes add up to cover the District's projected cost share for the project? Can you show the math?
4. Most recent WaterFix cost estimates were based on 2014 dollars. When will these estimates be updated so staff can provide accurate SWP tax projections?
5. A survey conducted for SCVWD earlier this year found that willingness to pay for "Investing in storage and conveyance improvements to maintain the level of imported water from the Sacramento San Joaquin ..." is only 47%, the lowest support of eleven possible options. Will staff and the Board take this into account in deciding whether or not to participate?

Your constituents should have the opportunity to absorb this important information and comment on the tax increases and whether or not they want to foot that bill. Therefore, we request that this topic be added as a next step and discussed on August 22 if not before. One month is not enough time for the public to respond.

Request for public information about how State Water Project Tax in Santa Clara County

In general, we think it is time to be more transparent and provide clear information to the public about the SWP parcel tax. Our suggestion is to create a web page that can be found by Google search and through the District's main page search mechanism. Will the District do this? If not, we request an explanation.

Santa Clara County property owners deserve to see how the SWP costs map down to us. A lot of information can be shared with some simple graphics. Some graphics we would like to see are:

1. A graph showing total SCVWD contribution to SWP tax each year (historic and projected)
2. A graph showing the range of per parcel contributions to SWP tax each year (historic and projected)
3. A graph showing share of SCVWD contribution going to operations, maintenance, administration, etc. each year (historic and projected), with notes added to explain any large changes
4. A graph showing SWP deliveries (gallons) each year (historic)

It's also important to explain how the tax works: the formula for calculating the tax on each parcel; if the tax applies to every parcel in the County; and explanation about any exemptions. If the SWP tax does apply to every parcel, we think it is also important to explain why areas like Palo Alto that do not receive SWP water are also subject to the tax.

Thank you for considering these important requests.

Katja Irvin, AICP
Water Committee Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter