

Comment Letter JEH

JEH

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street – 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

JAN 23 2006 00069

Re: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S.

Given the precipitous decline of Delta fish species, it makes no sense to move forward with a project that will "increase water deliveries" to state and federal water contractors by pumping even more water from the already stressed Delta ecosystem. This misguided project cannot move forward until the cause of the Delta fish decline is identified and resolved.

JEH-1

SDIP does not actually "improve" water quality or restore the Delta ecosystem. It simply directs water to state, federal, and local pumps to allow for more Delta diversions. SDIP should actually include an alternative that meets the essential goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem, improving water quality for biological needs as well as for consumptive purposes, and protecting Delta fish species.

JEH-2

If and when the project environmental review is reinitiated, the DEIR/S must, by state and federal law, include a reasonable range of alternatives. Currently, the DEIR/S only considers alternatives to increase Delta pumping and a no action alternative. At least one additional alternative that proposes a significant reduction in Delta pumping should be considered in a reinitiated DEIR/S. The goal of this alternative would be to restore the Delta ecosystem, improve water quality, and protect Delta fish species.

JEH-3

I urge that the SDIP DEIR/S be withdrawn until the causes of the Delta fish decline are identified and resolved. At the minimum, the SDIP DEIR/S should consider an alternative that significantly reduces Delta pumping from current levels. California does not need to increase Delta diversions to meet its current and future water needs. Increased investments in water use efficiency, reclamation, and conservation can meet our needs well into the future.

Please include me on your mailing list to be notified of any decisions or activities concerning this project.

Sincerely,



Name: JAMES E HUNTER Date: 1-16-06

Street Address: 1215 LEAVELL PARK CIR

City/State/Zip: LINCOLN CA 95648

Email: JIMFISHONCE@PACBELL.NET

Responses to Comments

JEH-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

JEH-2 and JEH-3

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Comment Letter RI

1/05/2006 08:30 6503426157	RI
FEB 07 2006 00128 Richard Izmirian 2215 Eaton Avenue San Carlos, CA 94070	
February 6, 2005	
Mr. Paul A. Marshall Department of Water Resources South Delta Branch, Draft EIS/EIR Comments 1416 9 th Street, 2 nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 Fax: (916) 653-6077	
RE: Comments on the South Delta Improvements Program, Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report	
Dear Mr. Marshall:	
I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/R) of November 2005, by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) concerning the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP). This letter expresses some of my concerns, comments, and questions about the proposed program and its supporting documents, focusing primarily on the financial and socio-economic sections of the DEIS/R.	
Beneficiaries Pay	
During the planning phase of CALFED, a great deal of time and resources went into financial planning for the implementation stage of the program. This included the principle of "Beneficiaries Pay". It is essential to any socio-economic evaluation of SDIP that the beneficiaries be identified and their willingness or ability to pay for the project be determined. If state bond funds and federal authorizations are to be used to finance SDIP, the plan for repayment of these public funds must be considered in the economic analysis.	RI-1
Value and Cost of Increased Water Exports	
Appendix O contains projections of regional economic benefits due to water supply changes made possible by SDIP. Net marginal values used to determine the benefits of increased water supplies were determined by subtracting delivery costs of \$8 to \$36/acre foot from the production value of the water. The true cost of the water, however, should include repayment of the capital costs of the project, payments to the Environmental Water Account, cost of maintaining south Delta water quality, value of fish and wildlife impacted, levee strengthening, costs associated with potential demand hardening, economic hardship to areas of origin	RI-2

02/05/2006 08:30 6503426157

IZMIRIAN ROOF & S/M

PAGE 02

Mr. Paul A. Marshall

Page 2

FEB 07 2006 00128

such as Trinity County and Indian tribes, impacts to source communities affected by water transfers, and other redirected impacts.

Water Supply Reliability

A stated goal of SDIP is to provide improved water supply reliability. The concept of water supply reliability, however, is never clearly defined. If water supply reliability means that supply equals demand, both sides of the equation have to be looked at. In a market based water distribution system, supply equals demand at a particular price. By definition, there will never be enough water if it is priced below market value. The documents do not contain any analysis of market pricing effects on water distribution and usage.

RI-3

In our politically allocated water distribution system, which subsidizes the price of water exported through the Delta, it is necessary to put reasonable limits on water deliveries to minimize redirected impacts on taxpayers, natural resources, and communities of origin. Even with limits, however, it is inconceivable that such a system would optimize the economic efficiency of allocated water.

With such inefficiencies in mind, the DEIS/R should analyze an alternative that reduces demand rather than assume that additional supply is needed to achieve water supply reliability. Agricultural land retirement, water conservation, and intrabasin water marketing are tools that can improve water supply reliability without increased exports from and through the Delta. The additional benefit would be better economic efficiency of water use.

RI-4

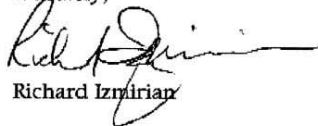
"Best Available Science" Includes Economics

The essential economic analyses needed by decision makers to evaluate issues of water supply reliability are not contained in the document. What economic choices would water users make if they had the freedom and responsibility to choose alternatives to buying newly available water supplies at true marginal cost? These choices might include buying the water at true cost, declining new water, buying water from a willing seller, water conservation, crop changes, avoidance of demand hardening, selling water privileges, and land retirement or fallowing. Trade-off analysis is a tool that can change the way California looks at water supply, water demand, and water allocation.

RI-5

Please withdraw the DEIS/R. Any new submission must include project alternatives that do not include increases in Delta water exports. A robust and meaningful economic analysis will help clarify the project need, as well as potential costs, benefits, and feasibility of each alternative.

Sincerely,



Richard Izmirian

Responses to Comments

RI-1

Identifying beneficiaries and their ability to pay is beyond the scope of a draft EIS/EIR.

RI-2

Under current Reclamation repayment structure, the method of determining water pricing was included in the analysis.

RI-3

Analysis of market pricing effects on water distribution and usage is beyond the scope of a draft EIS/EIR.

RI-4

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

RI-5

Preparing an analysis of the marginal cost pricing of water and resulting changes in demand and uses is beyond the scope of the EIS/EIR

Comment Letter PJ

PJ

From: Phil Johnson [pjohnsonhardwood@sunset.net]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2006 8:04 PM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: Increased Pumping Threatens California's Bay-Delta Estuary

Phil Johnson
14548 Blackberry Rd.
Forest Ranch, CA 95942-9749

January 20, 2006

Paul Marshall
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

On behalf of the Altacal Audubon Society, the North Valley's Audubon chapter, I would like to state an opposition to the increase of water diversions from the Delta. The fading ecological health of the Bay-Delta region should be first priority in any decision making process. Conservation measures should be exploited to their fullest before any more water is diverted from the Delta. Please stand up for preservation of what is left of the delta.

PJ-1

Altacal Audubon, President

Phil Johnson
570-7139

Responses to Comments

PJ-1

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including fish, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation have committed to a Stage 2 evaluation as explained in Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter JK

Jan 31, 2006 JK

Dear Mr. Marshall,

FEB 09 2006

00186

I wish to comment in response
to the South Delta Improvement Project
(SDIP) DEIR/S

I believe this project will
harm the Delta & San Francisco Bay.
We already know there is a serious
decline in fish populations in the
Delta. I believe we need to improve
water quality & fish habitat there,
not take more water away from the
Delta. Diverting more water from the
Bay won't help it either. Please place
my name on your mailing list to be
notified of any decisions or activities
concerning this project. Sincerely,

JK-1



Mr. John Keeley
125 Grafton Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112

John Keeley

Responses to Comments

JK-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter NK

NK

2020 Nora Drive
Hollister, CA 95023

January 22, 2006

JAN 3 / 2006

00118

Mr. Paul Marshall
California Dept. of Water Resources
South Delta Branch
1416 9th St., 2d Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen of California. I understand that there is a draft environmental impact report for the South Delta Improvements Program which would increase the maximum pumping limit for the state water project's Delta pumps to 8500 cubic feet per second. I strongly believe this would do damage to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, which has already been damaged by excessive water diversions. I urge you to issue a new draft which significantly reduces the Delta water diversions. I urge you to include as much water for ecosystem restoration as is required by the CalFed Bay-Delta Plan.

NK-1

Sincerely,


Nancy Kops

Responses to Comments

NK-1

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Comment Letter PBL

PBL

3712 61st Street
Sacramento, CA 95820
14 January 2006

JAN 20 2006 00061

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street – 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) DEIR/S.

It is inappropriate to move forward with a project that will increase water deliveries by pumping more fresh water from the Delta when Delta fish populations are crashing. Please withdraw the plan until the causes of the Delta fish decline are identified and fully resolved.

PBL-1

Further, the DWR should consider an alternative that significantly reduces Delta pumping from current levels and actually improves Delta water quality and wildlife habitat.

PBL-2

The evidence I have seen suggests that California does not need to increase Delta diversions to meet its current and future water needs. The State's own Water Plan demonstrates that increased investments in urban and agricultural water use efficiency and reclamation can meet our needs well into the future.

PBL-3

My consideration of this issue is made from the viewpoint of a professional economist, having taught university-level economics for 36 years, including courses that deal with California water economics.

Sincerely,



Peter B. Lund

Responses to Comments

PBL-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

PBL-2

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

PBL-3

Please see Master Response L, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005*.

Comment Letter RML

RML

Feb 07, 2006 00137

February 6, 2006

Mr. Paul A Marshall
Department of Water Resources
South Delta Branch
Draft EIS/EIR Comments
1416 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am an owner of riverfront property in the South Delta. I'm very concerned with the possible impacts the permanent flow control gates will have on the river. Our property is downstream of the gates at Grant Line and Fabian and Old River. The barriers will have the following impacts on our use of the Delta:

1. Barriers will impede access to Grant Line and Fabian canals. This barriers will force more boaters onto the already congested West Canal. The increase boat traffic will make these canals more dangerous. The delta is already a treacherous location for boating.
2. Barriers may lower water levels downstream making boat access more difficult. The area around Hammer Island, Middleton's Island and Little Hawaii have historic erosion and siltation problems. This is caused by the increased water velocity due to pumping action. The barriers may exacerbate the problem by holding back flows from Old River and Grant Line, Fabian and increasing flows from West Canal. Increased flows may cause additional erosion and siltation problems. Will the Department of Water Resoures take responsibility for the siltation and erosion problems for the area around the CVP intake?
3. There is significant boat traffic accessing Grant Line and Fabian Canels from the west end. The flow control gates will make this access much more difficult and will close-off a significant portion of the south delta to boaters. Very few boaters access these canals from the east. Has a study been done to assess the impact to the boating community? The gates should be moved to the east end of Grant Line and Fabian!

RML-1

RML-2

RML-1

Considering the recent decline in the delta smelt and other indicators signaling a significant problem with the delta, shouldn't these major modifications to the delta be reconsidered or delayed until there is more understanding of the delta environment and the reasons for the fish declines?

RML-3

Sincerely,

Robert M. Lyman
920 Old Hawthorne Rd
Lafayette, CA 94549

Responses to Comments

RML-1

As described in Section 7.4, the overall area available for recreation in the south Delta would not change substantially. The operable gate would be in a location different from that of the current temporary barrier on Grant Line Canal; the permanent gate would be open during much of the day, and a boat lock would be operated when the gate is closed to allow passage of boats.

RML-2

Velocities in West Canal would be maintained by dredging the canal to improve its conveyance capacity.

RML-3

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter JIM

JIM

January 15, 2006

JAN 27 2006 00082

Paul A. Marshall
Department of Water Resources
South Delta Branch
c/o NCCFFF
P.O. Box 8330
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I am writing to make you aware that I oppose actions proposed in the draft EIR/EIS for the South Delta Improvements Program. This proposal will only further compromise/complicate the ecology of the Bay-Delta regions. The proposed dredging, water-gate barriers, increased pumping and increased water exports will only worsen the Bay-Delta ecosystem. These proposed changes will lead to changes in water quality, the amount of water, and the natural composition of the Delta and Bay water which will change the natural flora and fauna of these areas. Increasing the water diversion and decreasing volume from the delta will reduce the "flushing action" into the SF Bay and surrounding tidelands forever changing the area for millions of people. Although the proposal suggests that the amount of water diverted is ONLY 3-5%; however, any amount will have a severe environmental impact to the delta and to the SF Bay.

JIM-1

JIM-2

Instead of the measures proposed by the Department of Water Resources-- the increase diversion, new gates, dredging, and agricultural modifications, I suggest instead reducing the pumping rates and water exports from the Delta. Instead restore the natural delta ecosystem—have it be as it should—natural wetlands. Dredging and barriers will only reduce the wetlands, affect ecology, affect the flora and fauna, affect fish and game resources, increase potential for floods, and decrease water quality in SF Bay and Delta water regions.

JIM-3

JIM-4

Our need for water can be met through conservation, reclamation, and efficiency. Not by physically altering the Delta region forever.

Thank you,


James I. Mangels
2311 Tucker Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Responses to Comments

JIM-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline* and Master Response K, *Staged Decision Making Process*

JIM-2

The SDIP EIS/EIR includes an assessment of Stage 1 and Stage 2 impacts on aquatic resources. Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*

JIM-3

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

JIM-4

The environmental impacts of constructing and operating the fish control gate and flow control gates and conducting conveyance dredging are disclosed in the SDIP EIS/EIR. The analysis concluded that these actions would result in significant impact on certain resources. The resources affected are summarized in SDIP EIS/EIR Table ES-2. Each significant impact would be reduced to a less than by the application of the specified mitigation measure(s).

Comment Letter DM

DM

From: independentwomonvoice@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2006 5:00 PM
To: Marshall, Paul
Subject: SDIP DEIR/S

Mr. Paul Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I urge you not to support SDIP DEIR/S at least until problems with the San Francisco Bay Delta are resolved. (i.e. lower fish populations ect.) California will do just fine without taking from the already troubled Delta. Thank you for considering my comments.

DM-1

Sincerely,

Danielle Martin
3425 Spring St. #3
Paso Robles, California 93446

Responses to Comments

DM-1

Please see Master Response K, *Staged Decision Making Process*

Comment Letter GMM

GMM

FEB 14 2006 00203

Grace M. Marvin, Ph.D.
Julian C. Zener, M.D.
1621 N. Cherry St.
Chico, CA 95926

February 2, 2006

Mr. Paul Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th St.- 2nd floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

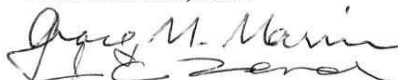
Dear Mr. Marshall:

We are in accord with the following recommendation and urge you to consider it, for the reasons presented below:

- Please withdraw the SDIP DEIR/S until the causes of the Delta ecosystem decline are identified and fully resolved. GMM-1
- Increased Delta pumping will require increased exploitation of Sacramento Valley water which will negatively impact the economy and environmental health of areas of origin. GMM-2
- Increased demands on Sacramento Valley water will damage groundwater dependent business and ecosystems in areas of origin.
- California does not need to increase Delta diversions to meet its current and future water needs. The State's own Water Plan proves that increased investments in urban and agricultural water use efficiency and reclamation can meet our needs well into the future. GMM-3

Sincerely,

Grace M. Marvin, Ph.D.



Julian C. Zener, M.D.

Responses to Comments

GMM-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

GMM-2

Section 5.1 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides information on the amount of water that would be exported as part of Stage 2. This information provided the basis for evaluating the environmental impacts resulting from changes in reservoir storage (Oroville, Shasta, and Folsom) and river flows (Sacramento, Feather, and American). The changes in reservoir storage or river flows as a result of operating Stage 2 would be very small and are not expected to result in significant environmental impacts. South of Delta exports would not increase under Stage 2.

GMM-3

Please see Master Response L, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005*.

Comment Letter FM

FM

Frank Middleton
5871 Starboard Drive
Byron, California 94514
Tel: (925) 634-2986
Fax: (925) 634-5150
Email: fm-beta@solagracia.com

FEB 09 2006 00188

February 2, 2006

Lester A. Snow, Director
CA Dept. of Water Resources
1416 9th St Room 115-1
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition To The South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP)

Dear Director Snow;

I am opposed to the SDIP plan for the following:

My family and I have been using the Delta for the past 39 years for various water related activities i.e. fishing, water skiing and cruising. Additionally we have resided continuously in Discovery Bay for the past 22 years.

The proposal to place 4 dams across waterways in the South Delta will effectively cut off over 50 miles of prime fishing that starts less than 7 miles away from our home.

FM-1

Additionally during high tides, particularly in the winter the dams would create considerable pressure on the levies and could cause flooding.

FM-2

I again oppose the placing of any dams across navigable water ways that I frequent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank Middleton

CC: Paul Marshall
CA Dept. of Water Resources

← COPY

Responses to Comments

FM-1

The head of Old River fish control gate, Grant Line flow control gate, and the Old River flow control gate each include a boat lock that will maintain boat passage when the gates are in operation. Although the Middle River gate does not include a boat lock, boat passage would be allowed when the gate is not in operation. As discussed in Section 7.4 of the SDIP EIS/EIR, restricting access to Middle River is not expected to substantially reduce boating opportunities because most boats cannot access the channel because it is shallow and narrow.

FM-2

Section 5.5 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of the potential flood control impacts of the project. The gates have been designed to be flood neutral and would not affect flood stages or channel velocities.

Comment Letter WSM

February 1, 2006

FEB 07 2006 00126

Mr. Paul Marshall
SDIP EIR/EIR Comments
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall

My Grandfather purchased Hammer Island, across from the Delta Mendota Canal Fish Screens, in 1939 and I and my family have been coming to the Delta ever since. I have been living on my island, Middleton's Island also across from the fish screens at Delta Mendota Canal, since 1982.

I see what the water export/pumping is doing to the Delta. The deterioration of the fishing and water quality, the scouring of the levees and islands, the siltation, and the very fast current that rusher by our area causing other problems including bringing all the water lilies down to our area.

I went to your meeting last Thursday in Stockton and the people who spoke against you plan are all people who use or live on the Delta and they see first hand what is happening. You should listen to them.

The barriers that you no propose to make permanent were originally put in because the local farmers were suing the government for lowering river water levels so a point that they could not pump their irrigation water from the Delta. Subsequently, the government has come up with new benefits that do not make any sense at all I do not know why the government changed the purpose of these barriers or why they want to install permanent ones. They block the natural flow of the rivers and they lower the water level on our side of the barriers which is the side you pump from They also cause siltation in our area and seem to cause more problems than they cure.

I think you are very short sited to plan to continue to export more water. What is going to happen fifty to a hundred years from now? You cannot continue to think that the Delta water can continue to supply the population growth that California is surely going to have in the future

You need to seek other sources of water, such as taking the salt out of seawater. If you do not, you will be pumping seawater from the Delta someday. If you implemented a desalination plan now and gradually mixed the sea water with other water sources and gradually decreased the export of water from the Delta, then the Delta could heal itself. At the same time, you need to mplement water conservation in Southern California. Do the homes in Southern California have water meters. They need to have them and they need to be charged enough so that they conserve water.

WSM-1

To think that to improve the quality of the Delta water by pumping more water down south is crazy

Responses to Comments

WSM-1

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Comment Letter VM

VM

Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
South Delta Branch
1416 9th Street, 2nd floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

FEB 09 2006 00190

Dear Mr. Marshall,

To start off, I am an eighth grader currently attending St. Edward's Catholic School in Newark, California.

I am writing to you about my complaints concerning the issue of water resources and the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

The main problem, in my opinion, is the use of large amounts of water in which fish live in. This will only lead to an extermination of the fish. As humans, we need air to survive. Likewise, the fish need water to survive. It would be the same difference when you compare it to your number one priority, which is living. If you consume most of the water, the fish would have less space to live in and would therefore find it difficult to survive. Water is a big part of everyone's lives, but the Bay Area has so many water resources that I think it would be best if we save the water for those who need it most. I'm not implying that we should never use water. We need it as well! We need to just think more responsibly when it comes to using water. It is nature and we should be thankful that we have it.

What you can do to help prevent this is maybe think of a way to make less of the amount of water you take. There are many Bay Area water resources that don't have to deal with fish. If you would use that water, there is a better chance of saving the fish that need the water. If you save water instead of using them on useless things, you would probably have a good amount to satisfy your needs.

VM-1

In conclusion, I would ask of you to save the water for the fish and others who need it. It would be great to save God's creations and not waste it. If you will take my complaint as serious as possible that would really help because the fish really need their water. Please look for another place to get your water that doesn't harm any creatures' health and chance to live a healthy life.

Thank you for your time. I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,



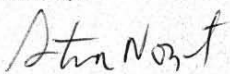
Vicki Munoz

Responses to Comments

VM-1

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Comment Letter SN

<p><i>Steven and Susan Nozet</i> 5802 Drakes Drive Discovery Bay, California 94514 (925) 516-5975</p>	<p>SN</p> <p>00130</p> <p>FEB 07 2006</p>
<p>February 1, 2006</p>	
<p>Paul Marshall California Department of Water Resources 1416 – 9th Street, Room 1115-1 Sacramento, CA 95814</p>	
<p>Re: South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP)</p>	
<p>Dear Mr. Marshall:</p>	
<p>I am a homeowner in the town of Discovery Bay, California. I am writing to you with regards to my concerns over the proposal of 4 dams being built to allow the pumping of an additional 5,000,000 gallons of water each day to Los Angeles and other Southern California locations (otherwise known as the SDIP).</p>	
<p>The negative impact that this will have on our Delta water is inarguable. The additional pumping will cause the salt water levels to increase and degrade the already fragile delta environment. The existing pumping changes the natural tidal flow of the area and the impending additional pumping will lower the water levels even more.</p>	<p>SN-1</p>
<p>If you do not live in any one of the wonderful communities that surround our Delta, you would probably not realize the impact of this project for homeowners like me. Tide swings due to winter rain and restrictive water flow caused by the dams will cause major damage to our levees, homes and docks. During the summer months when we have low tide combined with the capability to pump another 5 million gallons of water each day will cause the delta in my area to see ultra low areas and mud bottoms.</p>	<p>SN-2</p>
<p>I bought a home in Discovery Bay, in part, because of the wonderful Delta that surrounds it. Not only will the increase in salinity and decrease in water depth affect the value of my home, but it will, more importantly, affect the local environment that we as Californians, say we care so much about. I am not too familiar with all of the investigations and tests that have been made to substantiate the fact that the ecology of the entire Delta is diminishing, but if you listen to the fish, (of which there are literally hundreds of thousands less than there used to be), the message is loud and clear.</p>	
<p>Please take steps to ensure this project does not go any further!</p>	
<p>Sincerely,</p> <p> Steven Nozet</p>	
<p>SN/bas</p>	

Responses to Comments

SN-1

Section 5.3 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of changes in water quality conditions under SDIP Stage 1 and Stage 2. The analysis concluded that salinity in the interior South Delta would decrease and slightly decrease at Emmaton and Jersey Point for both SDIP Stage 1 and Stage 2. These changes were not substantial and were considered to be less than significant. Section 5.2 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of changes in tidal elevations. The analysis concluded that operation of Stage 1 or Stage 2 would result in substantial change in tidal elevations within the Delta. Table 5.2-6 provides a summary of the expected changes.

SN-2

Section 5.5 of the SDIP EIS/EIR provides an assessment of the potential flood control impacts of the project. The gates have been designed to be flood neutral and would not affect flood stages or channel velocities.

Comment Letter AP

AP

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

FEB 09 2006 00191

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Hello, my name is Alyssa Parsons. I am currently an eighth grader at Saint Edward School in the Bay Area. I am writing this letter because I am concerned about the fish population decreasing if you start pumping water into the bay.

The Delta smelt is at the lowest amount it has ever been at! If you decide to pump the water into the Delta we will loose many native fish. The Fish biologists believe that there are three reasons that may cause the Delta to collapse. One is the water quality, another is massive fresh water diversion, and exotic species may die. Please don't let this happen.

California can meet the amount of water that we need without having to pump water into the estuary! The Delta Estuary is the largest Estuary in the Western States as you may already know and we need to protect it. Besides hurting the Bay Area by pumping the water into the Delta you will hurt Southern California.

AP-1

The Delta will still provide enough water to last far into the future without having to pump the water. If you pump it the water quality won't be that great and the Delta will collapse. There are many other ways to treat this problem but try to choose an environmentally friendly way.

AP-2

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and listening to my ideas and opinions!

Sincerely,



Alyssa Parsons

Responses to Comments

AP-1

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR* and Master Response L, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005*.

AP-2

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline* and Master Response K, *Staged Decision Making Process*.

Comment Letter MP

MP

From: conchita@eyeline.tv
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2006 10:32 AM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street ? 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources,

I am very concerned that the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem is collapsing and some fish populations are in danger of extinction. Why even consider a plan that would significantly increase the amount of fresh water diverted out of the San Francisco Bay-Delta????

MP-1

I urge you to withdraw the draft until the causes of the decline are identified and resolved.

We must first restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem.
The California State Water Plan has clearly shown that the state can meet current and future water demand without increasing pumping if investments are made in urban and agricultural water conservation and reclamation.

MP-2

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maria Perales
1313 Mound St.
Alameda, California 94501

Responses to Comments


MP-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

MP-2

Please see Master Response L, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005*.

Comment Letter JGP

	PO Box 425 Los Gatos CA 95031 12 Jan 06	JGP
Dear Mr. Marshall,	JAN 20 2006 00063	
I am writing in response to the "South Delta Improvement project (SDIP) DEIR/IS.		
This project seems to have an unnecessary goal: why do we need to increase pumping from the Delta, when the state's own draft California Water Plan Update states that we can meet all of our water needs well into the future by increasing efficiency and reclamation of urban and agricultural water use?		
Given the unfolding biological collapse in the Delta, I ask that you withdraw the SDIP DEIR/IS completely. Or amend it so that it would actually <u>improve</u> the south Delta → by decreasing the pumping from today's levels.		
Please include me on your mailing list to be notified of any decisions or activities concerning this project.		
Sincerely  Joseph G. Petrofsky		

Responses to Comments

JGP-1

Please see Master Response L Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005.

JGP-2

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Comment Letter JDP

JDP

From: Mr. an Mrs Jim and Diana Prola [jimprola@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2006 8:13 PM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: Increased Pumping Threatens California's Bay-Delta Estuary

Mr. an Mrs Jim and Diana Prola
2234 Belvedere Ave
San Leandro, CA 94577-6554

January 19, 2006

Paul Marshall
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) DEIR/S.

Fed by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, the Bay-Delta is the largest estuary in the western United States. Depending on the water year, somewhere between 40 to 60 percent of the Delta's fresh water is already diverted by state and federal agencies and exported south to supply San Joaquin Valley agribusiness and Southern California cities. In the past four years, four species of Delta fish have severely declined, along with the complex food web that sustains them. The threatened Delta smelt, a small fish native only to the Delta, fell last fall to their lowest number ever.

JDP-1

Fisheries biologists point to three suspected causes of the Delta collapse, including degraded water quality, exotic species, and massive fresh water diversions. The collapse of the Delta ecosystem has in fact coincided with the highest annual rates of water diversions from the Bay-Delta. Increased pumping will make the ecosystem collapse even worse.

Even more disturbing is that this additional stress on the Delta is not necessary. California is not in a water crisis. In fact, according to the State's draft California Water Plan Update, California can meet water needs well into the future without taking more water out of the Bay-Delta Estuary. The Water Plan Update actually shows that water demand in California would decrease over the next thirty years if sufficient investments were made in urban and agricultural water use efficiency and reclamation.

JDP-2

Sincerely,

Responses to Comments

JDP-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

JDP-2

Please see Master Response L, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the California Water Plan Update 2005*.

Comment Letter SR

To: 19166536077	From: 2022891060	1-19-06 2:22pm p. 7 of 9	SR
<p>January 16, 2006</p> <p>Paul A. Marshall California Department of Water Resources South Delta Branch 1416 9th Street, 2nd floor Sacramento, CA 95814</p> <p>Dear Mr. Marshall,</p> <p>Regarding the EIR for the South Delta Improvements Program, it has come to my attention that provisions of the current draft include significant reductions in conservation measures for fish populations. Please withdraw this version of the draft and reissue a version that includes protections for fish populations.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Sky Rashby 206 1/2 N Ave 58 LA, CA 90042 USA</p>			
			SR-1

Responses to Comments

SR-1

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including fish, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation have committed to a Stage 2 evaluation as explained in Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter MAR

MAR

From: Mary Ann Robinson [robinsm@scs.losrios.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 4:14 PM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: Increased Pumping Threatens California's Bay-Delta Estuary

Mary Ann Robinson
P.O. Box 191411
Sacramento, CA 95819-1411

January 12, 2006

Paul Marshall
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am writing regarding the South Delta Improvement Project. Delta fish populations are already crashing so I don't understand why your department will pump even more water out of the Delta. You need to find a solution that reduces Delta pumping, improves Delta water quality and habitat, and protects fish. We don't need increased Delta diversions. Increased investments in water use efficiency and reclamation will meet current and future needs.

MAR-1

MAR-2

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Robinson

Responses to Comments

MAR-1

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including fish, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation have committed to a Stage 2 evaluation as explained in Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

MAR-2

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Responses to Comments

JS-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

JS-2

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including wildlife, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant.

JS-3

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

JS-4

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including wildlife, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant.

Comment Letter BS

BS

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street – 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

JAN 20 2006 00064

Re: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S.

Given the precipitous decline of Delta fish species, it makes no sense to move forward with a project that will "increase water deliveries" to state and federal water contractors by pumping even more water from the already stressed Delta ecosystem. This misguided project cannot move forward until the cause of the Delta fish decline is identified and resolved.

BS-1

SDIP does not actually "improve" water quality or restore the Delta ecosystem. It simply directs water to state, federal, and local pumps to allow for more Delta diversions. SDIP should actually include an alternative that meets the essential goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem, improving water quality for biological needs as well as for consumptive purposes, and protecting Delta fish species.

BS-2

If and when the project environmental review is reinitiated, the DEIR/S must, by state and federal law, include a reasonable range of alternatives. Currently, the DEIR/S only considers alternatives to increase Delta pumping and a no action alternative. At least one additional alternative that proposes a significant reduction in Delta pumping should be considered in a reinitiated DEIR/S. The goal of this alternative would be to restore the Delta ecosystem, improve water quality, and protect Delta fish species.

BS-3

I urge that the SDIP DEIR/S be withdrawn until the causes of the Delta fish decline are identified and resolved. At the minimum, the SDIP DEIR/S should consider an alternative that significantly reduces Delta pumping from current levels. California does not need to increase Delta diversions to meet its current and future water needs. Increased investments in water use efficiency, reclamation, and conservation can meet our needs well into the future.

Please include me on your mailing list to be notified of any decisions or activities concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Name: Brian Staab Date: 1-17-2006
Street Address: 160 Biscayne Way
City/State/Zip: Folsom CA 95630
Email: BGSTAAB@YAHOO.COM

American Feb 5
Pyramid Feb 21-22
John March Feb 25
ES Feb 8

Responses to Comments

BS-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

BS-2 and BS-3

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Comment Letter DT

DT

100% recycled post-consumer paper

Jan 23, 2006

JAN 30 2006 098

Paul A. Marshall
California Dept of Water Resources
1416 Ninth St., 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Please withdraw the draft environmental impact report and issue a new draft with a preferred alternative that includes a significant reduction in Delta water diversions. An increase to 8500 cfs will further damage the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

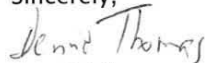
DT-1

Include a new preferred alternative which offers at least as much water dedicated to ecosystem restoration and protection as is required by the state's plan to protect and restore the delta - the CALFED Bay-Delta Plan.

Please issue a full draft environmental impact report on the proposal to increase the state water project's maximum pumping limit once improved scientific information is available regarding the causes of the delta's decline and once this decline has been reversed.

DT-2

Sincerely,



Dennis Thomas
147 St. Germain Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA. 94523

Responses to Comments

DT-1

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

DT-2

Please see Master Response B *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program the Pelagic Organism Decline* and Master Response K, *Staged Decision Making Process*.

Comment Letter BS2

BS2

From: Brad Strong [brad@edvoice.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 1:19 PM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: Increased Pumping Threatens California's Bay-Delta Estuary

Brad Strong
3217 Shelter Cove Lane
Elk Grove, CA 95758-4666

January 12, 2006

Paul Marshall
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street - 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) DEIR/S.

Please proceed with extreme caution. The Delta is an extremely complex ecosystem. We are blessed with the variety of plant, animal and fish species that exist there.

It would be an extraordinarily careless act for any actions to be embarked upon without knowing fully and unequivocally what the long term effects will be.

Sincerely,

Brad Strong
916/448-3868

BS2-1

Responses to Comments

BS2-1

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including fish, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation have committed to a Stage 2 evaluation as explained in Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter JL

JL

From: jlobue@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2006 12:31 PM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street ? 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Study for the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP).

Without a doubt, the more water that gets exported south from the Delta will increasingly destroy this amazing eco-system we have. This fact is clear to scientists and non-scientists alike. The San Francisco Bay-Delta cannot be the sole answer to all the water needs for Southern California. Water districts there have the resources, with the millions of water users they provide for, to add a minimum fee to water bills and build desalinization plants. We are well past the limit of fresh water that we can export to the Southland without serious consequences. JL-1
JL-2

A revised Environmental Impact Report/Study should be drafted that includes all reasonable alternatives, such as a significant reduction in Delta pumping from current levels and the planning/building of desalinization plants. A reduction in water exports would allow the Bay-Delta ecosystem to be restored. JL-3

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joe LoBue
2831 Frayne Lane
Concord, California 94518

Responses to Comments

JL-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

JL-2 and JL-3

Please see Master Response D, *Developing and Screening Alternatives Considered in the South Delta Improvements Program Draft EIS/EIR*.

Comment Letter CC

CC

From: ccrchapman@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2006 2:45 PM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street ? 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources,

Thank you for an opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Study for the South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP).

I read in the San Francisco Chronicle 2/5/06 that the ecosystem of the SF Bay and Delta is so disturbed that non-native species gain advantages leading to further disruption and extinction of our historical habitat.

CC-1

The article convinced me that that diverting fresh water out the San Francisco Bay-Delta is part of the problem.

I urge you to withdraw the draft until the causes of the decline of native species are identified and resolved.

CC-2

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Chapman
1669 20th Ave
San Francisco, California 94122-3435

Responses to Comments

CC-1 and CC-2

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter WR

WR

From: William Riess [briess@lmi.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2006 7:26 AM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

William Riess
6144 Wood Drive
Oakland, CA 94611-3160

January 12, 2006

Paul Marshall
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am glad you are soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) DEIR/S.

While I am neither a hydrologist nor biologist, I am very concerned that the "Improvement" plan is misleading and misnamed because it appears to be potentially damaging to an already threatened vital natural resource in California.

WR-1

I hope you will heed the advice of people who are equally troubled and much more astute than I on these matters.

Sincerely,

William Riess
510.845.6892

Responses to Comments

WR-1

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including fish, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation have committed to a Stage 2 evaluation as explained in Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter AH

AH

From: soldier_zero_one@msn.com
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2006 7:40 PM
To: sdip_comments
Subject: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street ? 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Paul Marshall, California Department of Water Resources,

Thank you for taking the time to haer what a concerned citizen has to say.

I remember just about ten years ago when my elementary school would take fieldtrips to the Bay and had the chance to see the wonderful ecosystem that grew there. I am concerned that the Delta pumping may be damaging this fragile habitat. I urge you to withdraw the draft until the causes of the decline are identified and resolved. My High School Environmental Science class will be looking into this issue and hope that more damage will not be done. Please help save our gentle planet! For example, you might write a revised Environmental Impact Report/Study that includes all reasonable alternatives, such as a significant reduction in Delta pumping from current levels. A reduction would allow the Bay-Delta ecosystem to be restored. The California State Water Plan has clearly shown that the state can meet current and future water demand without increasing pumping if investments are made in urban and agricultural water conservation and reclamation. Thank you for your time,

AH-1

Sincerely,

Amanda Hassitt
435 Tennyson Ave
Palo Alto, California 94301

Responses to Comments

AH-1

The effects of the SDIP on biological resources, including fish, are fully described in the SDIP Draft EIS/EIR in Chapter 6, which includes impact assessment for fish, vegetation and wetlands, and wildlife. Where a significant effect is found to result from implementation of the SDIP, DWR and Reclamation will implement mitigation measure(s) to ensure that the overall impact is less than significant. Additionally, DWR and Reclamation have committed to a Stage 2 evaluation as explained in Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

Comment Letter AD

AD

Comment Card – January 2006

**Please submit comments by close of business
Tuesday, February 7, 2006** Submitting Your Comments

- Return written comments to the Registration Table
- Submit comments electronically by emailing: sdipcomments@water.ca.gov
- Fax comments to Mr. Paul Marshall at 916-653-6077
- Post comments through the SDIP website at <http://sdip.water.ca.gov>
- Mail to: Mr. Paul Marshall, SDIP EIR/EIR Comments
Department of Water Resources, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento CA 95814

South Delta IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

<i>Alan Deane</i>	Name	Address <i>1600 E. Broadway Apt 5</i>	
—	Title	City <i>Glendale</i>	
—	Organization	State <i>CA</i>	
<i>adeane@earthlink.net</i>	E-Mail	Zip Code <i>91205-1572</i>	
<i>818-246-2052</i>	Telephone No.	Fax No.	

Conserve *No building necessary.*


AD-1

Responses to Comments

AD-1

DWR and Reclamation acknowledge your opposition to the SDIP.

Comment Letter VWC

<p><i>Valencia Water Company</i></p> <p>24631 Avenue Rockefeller • P.O. BOX 5904 • Valencia, CA 91385-5904 (661) 294-0828 • Fax (661) 294-3806</p>	<p>DEC 22 2005 00014</p> 
<p>December 7, 2005</p> <p>Mr. Lester Snow, Director Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001</p> <p>RE: South Delta Improvements Program</p> <p>Dear Director Snow,</p> <p>On behalf of Valencia Water Company, I am writing today to express our company's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.</p> <p>Valencia Water Company is an investor owned water utility regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. With over 29,000 customer accounts serving the city of Santa Clarita and the communities of Valencia and Stevenson Ranch, the Valencia Water Company relies on imported water from the State Water Project (SWP) and delivered by the Castaic Lake Water Agency to reliably meet the needs of our existing and future customers. Having a high quality and reliable water supply is critically important to our community and our customers and we urge DWR take all reasonable and necessary steps to enhance and improve the operations of the SWP.</p> <p>As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, we have limited water supplies in our arid state, so we must better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In essence, we need to make every drop count.</p>	<p>VWC-1</p>
<p>NIERF A Subsidiary of THE NEWHALL LAND AND FARMING COMPANY</p>	<p>12/7/2005</p>

DEC 22 2005 00014

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow SWP deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and appreciate the opportunity to comment on this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert J. DiPrimio
President

RJD:tr

VWC-1

12/7/2005

DEC 22 2005 00014

cc: Hon. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Mr. Dan Masnada, General Manager, Castaic Lake Water Agency

12/7/2005

Responses to Comments

VWC-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.