

From: Charlene Woodcock
To: commentletters
Cc: tony@tonythurmond.com
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 7:16:37 AM



TO: State Water Resources Control Board

FOM: Charlene M. Woodcock

As a native Southern Californian, I learned in early childhood that California's water is precious and that I live in an arid state where we need to protect our water sources and use our water responsibly.

Most crucial to our state water management is actual protection of the west coast's most important estuary, the San Francisco Bay Delta, whose viability requires at a minimum half the flow of water from the rivers that feed it, the Tuolumne, Merced, Stanislaus, and lower San Joaquin, and which provides for migrating birds and fish essential to biodiversity in California. Our floodplains serve a valuable purpose crucial to the recovery of our fisheries. Reduced fresh water flow is so concentrating pollutants in the Delta that we're seeing toxic blue-green algae in California waters. Our historic salmon-based ecosystem not only provides food and income for the fish industry but it supports other plants and animals in the upstream ecosystems. It must be restored.

It is incredible that Governor Brown has continued to push the outrageous twin tunnels' proposal, whose primary intent is clearly to ensure continuing profits for industrial agriculture in California. The losers would be the great Delta ecosystem, our salmon and other fisheries, the small farms that have co-existed with the Delta environment for generations, providing beneficial diversified agriculture in California in contrast to Central Valley agribusiness which, by monocropping huge acreages in California, dependent on pesticides and herbicides, has rendered the soil sterile, destroyed bird and bee habitat, and poisoned air and groundwater. Higher value, less water-dependent crops on smaller farms will better serve California.

It is unacceptable that the moguls of California industrial agriculture should attempt to shape California State water policy. The abundantly profitable almond industry alone uses 10% of our fresh water, to the huge detriment of California's salmon and other fisheries that contribute to California's economy much more widely than the almond business. New almond orchards have been planted in the past three years, well after it was apparent we'd be suffering an ongoing drought. Central Valley industrial agriculture's profit drive and disproportionate and careless use of our valuable and limited fresh water must be curbed. The hugely costly, wasteful, and environmentally destructive twin tunnels must NOT be permitted.

In addition, it is shameful that California and federal government officials would choose to drown more of the Winnemum Wintu traditional lands, most already taken, by raising the Shasta Dam. Underground water storage is much less destructive and more effective. It is unconscionable to propose to flood Indian lands in order to ensure profits for growers who choose to plant year-round water-needy almond orchards instead of growing seasonal crops appropriate to California's limited and overdrawn water.

California should provide the model for educating and requiring the public, including industrial agriculture, to achieve the most effective conservation practices and efficient use of this most essential natural resource. There is no place for profit-making and privatization of our water; we have an obligation to ensure California's biodiversity and to protect our water for future generations of Californians.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Woodcock
2355 Virginia Street
Berkeley CA 94709
(510) 843-8724

