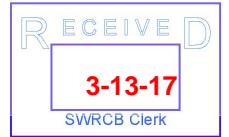


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Public Comment  
2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
Deadline: 3/17/17 12:00 noon



## **The Big Water Grab**

We drink whiskey and fight over water but if we don't have enough water to make whiskey we are really in trouble.

Water, water everywhere but never a drop to drink- The Ancient Mariner

We need more water for farmers, cities and fish. The Solution is to build more dams in the mountains to get,

1. More water
2. Storage of water
3. New sources of clean, renewable hydro electric power

The governor needs water to build his possible twin tunnels to go to Los Angeles. To try and grab some water from the rivers in the central valley he appoints five people to a "water board: who are not elected and not accountable and only have "false" authority to take water. The so called "water" board says they need more water for fish. One experiment that was done was to increase flow down one river and see how many salmon are alive at the end of each year.

The increase was 11,200 to 12,300 salmon about 1,100 total fish more in one year which is within statistical variations. Although "fish people" claim increased flow will increase the number of fish because it helps wash out the salt in saline and lowers the temperature so fish like it better.

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However the actual experiment did not prove this theory. We are told that California hatch and release as much as 20,000 to 30,000 small salmon per year but they are mostly eaten by predators such as striped bass, small mouth bass and large mouth bass.

There are also non flow changes that could be done to help salmon for example

1. Improve bedding areas where salmon hatch
2. Adjust temperature
3. Salinity evaluation
4. Time when salmon are actually in the river
5. Remove predators, striped bass, small mouth bass, large mouth bass

The “Fish People” should not have government backing for all their ideas to “Save Fish.” The “Fish People” should be a charity such as save the whales, elephants, Polar bears, stray dogs and fisherman could lead the charity if they were willing to contribute and lead.

I came to California thirty years ago and started farming almonds. Interestingly a canal ran right through our property and I asked if I could use some of the water from the canal I was told no, MID controls the water. I asked if I could sign up on a waiting list to get water, I was told that would be fine but MID doesn't have enough water but just for their “members” and they are not known for opening up to farmers who are not already getting water. The facts are that MID barely has enough water for their own members. Others to get water have to dig their own wells. Over the last 30 years because of the drought and increased pumping groundwater is now getting partially depleted with soil sinking and new regulations restricting how many wells can be dug.

Clearly there is not enough water for farmer's cities and fish. Our ancestors were actual farsighted people of the valley put up their own plans and money and built canals and dams. Comes now the State of California and wants to take our water.

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When there was significant resistance the governor said to the appointed committee go “negotiate” and make a “settlement.’

This “water group” is acting like coming home and finding two burglars in the house one of which has all your jewelry in his hands and the other has all your silver and other valuables in his hands. You tell the burglars to drop your valuables now and leave, they tell you they want to negotiate and reach a settlement of how much of your belongings they get to keep. The answer as with the “water grab” group is none or no negotiation.

Our founding fathers debated what role federal government and state governments should have, and decided that limited delegated and enumerated powers only would be allowed.

Comes now the State of California demanding to take our water and “negotiate” They have probably read President Elect Donald Trump books and the art of negotiation and ask for 38% of the water in dry years and try to “settle” for 10% of the water so people will feel that this is less of a “water grab” By “grabbing” water the farmers will have a decreased economic value of their land so the value of land will decrease and the state government has now stolen the value of the property of the people.

The federal government constitution provides for states having disputes with each other and with state governments overreaching their authority for civil and criminal theft of water and property and that these disputes can go to the Supreme Court.

The MID is a municipality, owned by the citizens “not investor owner” and owns dams and canals. MID is in the process of getting a license to continue to run their already owned, Dam, canals, water and hydroelectric power which is estimated to cost MID 50 million just for the license renewal because of overregulation.

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The state could block providing the license (directly or indirectly) until MID/TID grant the state control of the water to go into Governor Brown's twin tunnel plan to send water to Los Angeles.

With the cost of the license 50 + million and cost of securing our defense of the "water grab: also 50+ million the cost of electricity and water could easily double causing further burden and depressed economic activity. The State of California would also suffer with the State of California trying to have a "water grab: and taking of property rights leading to constitutional law suits at a time that the survey of Chief executive voted for the last 5 years that California is the worst state to do business in.

The Governor Brown appointed "water board" has said publically and been reported in the newspaper "with no retraction" that taking water from the three rivers is "inevitable "and could take as high as 38% of the water in a dry years and we have had a drought the last five years. We are told that the cities, counties MID/TID and business are choosing attorneys to fight what they feel is an illegal "water grab" on the constitutional basis of property rights, riparian, river rights, private companies MID and TID owned by the people of the central valley. We estimate the legal battle could go for 5 or more years and cost 50 million dollars or more. They also hope to raise money to put in new governmental officials including new governor.

The solution 100 years ago by our ancestors was to build more dams for; New Dams are the long term answer for not enough water and would provide:

1. More water
2. Storage of water
3. Renewable , clean hydro electric power

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If Governor Brown wants to leave a legacy he should abandon the twin tunnels and high speed train. To provide a lasting legacy for Brown and Trump as follows we could make one dam the Gov Jerry Brown Dam with state support and another with the president Donald Trump dam with federal support. We could use the 100 million already committed above and all feel we have fulfilled our destiny for being good ancestors ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration

Call to discuss 209-602-9096

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