



TALKING POINTS FOR SJCOG ONE VOICE WASHINGTON, DC TRIP 2017 REGARDING WATERFIX AND THE DELTA

(Adapted from 3-11-2013 Delta Coalition position statement)

For more information or questions, please contact:

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San Joaquin County Delta interests are comprised of the cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, and Tracy, San Joaquin County, water agencies, and leaders of the local business and environmental communities. The community's mission is to help further the long-term sustainability of the Delta and its unique economy and environment. The community also seeks to work collaboratively with State agencies to revise the proposed California WaterFix (formerly the Bay Delta Conservation Plan or BDCP) in accordance with the positions and principles summarized below:

WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY, AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & PROTECTION

Our community seeks to preserve and enhance existing area of origin, watershed, and Delta protection concepts provided for in California law such that water supplies of sufficient quantity and quality for reasonable beneficial use and ecosystem sustainability in the Delta are ensured now and into the future. Toward that end:

- Existing water rights in the Delta and upstream of the Delta must be honored and preserved, including area of origin protections.
- Water quantities, quality, uses, diversions, and flows upstream of, into and out of the Delta must meet the needs for agriculture, fish and wildlife, municipal, and industrial uses.
- Water conveyance in the Delta should remain solely a through-Delta system and not include an isolated facility that would transport water around the Delta or otherwise would divert water from flowing through the Delta.
- The burden for mitigating the impacts of exporting water from the Delta should be borne by the exporters and not be shifted or redirected to other in-Delta or upstream of Delta water users.

WATERFIX ALTERNATIVES

Our community supports projects that reduce reliance on the Delta and enhance Statewide water supply, including:

- More robust flood protection necessary to protect water quality and improve water supply reliability
- Increased surface and groundwater storage
- Groundwater management (conjunctive use)
- Water reuse/recycling projects
- Desalination
- Conservation and improved management
 - Agriculture (irrigation infrastructure, crop type)
 - Municipal & Industrial

The State should fully evaluate all viable WaterFix alternatives that would further the two coequal goals “of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem...in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place,” (CA Water Code Section 85054). Each alternative must be subject to full Federal and State environmental review which evaluates and identifies mitigation for impacts throughout the estuary, including but not limited to flows through the Delta, water quality, aquatic/terrestrial species, habitat and local economies.

GOVERNANCE

Any governing entity that will develop, approve, and/or implement the WaterFix must include local government representatives as voting members. San Joaquin County Delta interests seek full, fair, and effective participation in WaterFix development, implementation, and ongoing operations.

BENEFIT - COST AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS

A reasonable range of WaterFix alternatives shall be comprehensively evaluated in the WaterFix environmental analysis and each alternative shall be subjected to a peer-reviewed “cost-benefit” analysis in accordance with the California DWR handbook¹. WaterFix is the most costly water proposal in California history, so it is unusual that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has not performed a benefit-cost analysis of the proposal in accordance with its own planning guidelines. Dr. Jeff Michael from the University of the Pacific recently performed a Benefit-Cost Analysis of the California WaterFix which concluded that the project provides less than 25 cents worth of benefits for every dollar expended².

MITIGATION

WaterFix development and implementation shall preserve, protect and enhance the Delta economy and agriculture by providing full mitigation of all direct and indirect negative impacts to the Delta ecosystem, economy and communities, including but not limited to commerce, transportation, recreation, agriculture, and historical value.

AGRICULTURE

Preserving and enhancing agricultural land, resources, and the agricultural economy in San Joaquin County must be supported, and alternatives to converting productive agricultural land to habitat as a mitigation for water exports must be promoted.

DELTA LEVEES / FLOOD CONTROL

Continued investments in Delta levee / flood control improvement and maintenance programs must be made, regardless of the Delta conveyance improvements that may occur, in order to:

- Maintain and improve flood protection for Delta county communities with a total population of over four million people, Delta agriculture, and more than \$20 billion worth of backbone infrastructure within the Delta.
- Protect Delta water quality for municipal, industrial and agricultural uses
- Improve reliability of Delta water conveyance corridors

¹ See http://www.water.ca.gov/pubs/planning/economic_analysis_guidebook/econguidebook.pdf

² See <http://www.pacific.edu/Documents/school-business/BFC/WaterFix%20benefit%20cost.pdf>