



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

November 10, 2022

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi:

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) thanks you for cosponsoring HR 8849, the *Stop Delta Tunnels Act*, by Congressman Harder, which would prohibit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from issuing a federal permit for the misguided Delta Conveyance Project (DCP).

As you know, the DCP is an environmentally destructive project that would affect Delta communities for years to come. The impacts from just the construction of a 45-mile long, 39-foot outer diameter tunnel around the Delta would span a decade-plus and disturb thousands of acres of farmland, grasslands, wetlands and riparian habitat. Additionally, toxic air pollutants, including particulate matter, would increase – and at times double – across the region, endangering the health of Delta residents.

Once operational the DCP would provide for the diversion of roughly one-third to one-half of the average flow of the Sacramento River. Also, the DCP's Preferred Alternative (Bethany alternative) includes an additional 6,000 cubic feet of export pumping capacity in the south Delta. That represents a 58% increase in the capacity of the State Water Project export pumps in the South Delta. This would deprive the Delta of badly needed freshwater inflows, thus increasing salinity levels and significantly degrading Delta water quality and agriculture. Reduced freshwater inflows would also result in increased outbreaks of harmful algal blooms in what is an already fragile ecosystem.

The DCC supports more thoughtful, resilient solutions to address California's longstanding water challenges. For example, we support building greater regional self-sufficiency by improving water supplies through various means, including stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, recycling and reuse, and water conservation. We also support improving through-Delta conveyance by dedicating increased resources toward maintaining and armoring existing levees.

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We appreciate all you have done to protect the Delta and the communities we serve. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please feel free to contact us or DCC Coordinator Elisia De Bord at deborde@saccounty.gov or (916) 874-4227.

Sincerely,



Don Nottoli
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Mitch Mashburn
Supervisor, Solano County



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