

From: [Friends of the River](#) on behalf of [Dale M. Heckman](#)
To: comments_EIR@DeltaCouncil
Subject: Please adopt Alternative 2 to restore the Delta and reduce Delta water diversions
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 10:52:03 PM

Jan 26, 2012

Mr. Joe Grindstaff
980 9th Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Grindstaff,

I urge the Delta Stewardship Council to adopt Alternative 2 and to specifically limit Delta water diversions to no more than 3,000 cubic feet per second, to implement the Delta Plan.

Unfortunately, none of the alternatives currently in the EIR meet the legal mandates of restoring the Delta ecosystem, water quality, and fisheries. Therefore, I urge that the draft EIR be recirculated with at least one alternative that fully achieves these important goals.

Downstream uses of diverted fresh water surely must concern you. RECENTLY, I OBSERVED FROM I-5 how Westlands Water District uses precious freshwater from No. Calif. Just past one billboard instructing me, "Food grows where water flows" I saw large fields on my left where cotton had just been harvested. Thirsty and high in fibre but not otherwise nutritious! On the right side of I-5 soon appeared vast acreage of standing water, shallow but obviously unused. On my return northward, I read grim notices, "Congress-caused dust bowl." Next to that, cattle were grazing on a large plain, and next to that a well-watered vineyard and then a hillside new orchard, not "contiered" to conserve soil and water. Then another sign "Congress-caused dust bowl."

All along I-5, no word that "We'll fix the leaching of toxic selenium

into Kesterson sump (officially 'reservoir')" that keeps poisoning and deforming migrating waterfowl. Only demands, "Give us more of your water." On another hillside, an irrigation system pumps drinkingwater up into the valley's air --"HooWhee!"-- as though this water were not a scarce and precious resource.

It's time to stop being bamboozled by this johnny-come-late piglet suckling water from our great federal tit. Bye-bye Westlands MISUSED Water District.

THEN let us come back to the issue of keeping freshwater in the Delta.

I oppose any alternative that would require the construction of a Peripheral Canal or tunnel to divert more water from the Delta. I also oppose any plan that assumes the taxpayer will cover the costs for Delta projects that primarily benefit those who receive Delta water exports. Those who receive Delta water need to mitigate the damage they have caused to the Delta ecosystem.

The Delta is a nationally significant public trust resource critical to the economic and environmental health of California. Please adopt a Delta Plan that ensures full protection and restoration of this

important estuary.

Thank you.

Dr. Dale M. Heckman
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