

From: [Friends of the River](#) on behalf of [Jeffrey Schuitema](#)
To: comments_EIR@DeltaCouncil
Subject: Please adopt Alternative 2 to restore the Delta and reduce Delta water diversions
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 5:51:38 PM

Jan 25, 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.

A valid Delta Plan must enforce water quality standards and meet the minimum flow recommendations of the California Department of Fish and Game and Water Resources Board.

The Plan should focus on cost-effective water use efficiency, recycling, and conservation measures, instead of costly and destructive dams and canals, to achieve its water supply reliability goal.

Past water development policy has done what humans always have done: destroy a valuable resource which has been taken for granted until it is nearly destroyed. Then when the value of the resource: water, fish and ecosystem are threatened, so many other interests have been made dependent on bad policy that it is very hard to un-do.

Studies now show that the four hydro-electric dams which have eliminated Salmon from the the Salmon River in Idaho produce less dollar value than the fishery did. It would have been more cost effective to sell the fish and buy electricity and never have built the dams at all. What a waste. The dams are now being removed. It was just a very big mistake.

Growing population in Los Angeles and growing water intensive crops are bad ideas period. Destroying the Delta in pursuit of these bad ideas is human folly. We have had enough human folly and enough crony government selling influence to the highest bidder.

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.

Mr. Jeffrey Schuitema
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