



Delta Counties Coalition

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

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

Delta Counties Coalition Opposes Big Water's Latest Attempt to Ram Through Delta Tunnel Conveyance Project

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Contact: Michael Grinstead
GrinsteadM@saccounty.gov
916-875-7276

Sacramento, CA – In response to a press conference attended by State water contractor's in California, two tunnel-friendly legislators, and one member of the Newsom Administration to once again promote a legislative trailer bill that would fast track the Delta Tunnel Conveyance Project, Patrick Hume, Chair of the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), issued the following statement on behalf of the five counties and the 4 million California residents who stand to be most negatively impacted by this controversial, divisive, multi-billion dollar megaproject:

"The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) continues to stand in strong opposition to the Delta Conveyance trailer bill, which was the subject of today's press conference. Nothing new was offered by the proponents of the tunnel today, with the exception of a far-fetched new talking point regarding affordability. Part of the very trailer bill they are pushing is a provision to provide unchecked spending authority to build a tunnel that will ultimately cost tens - if not hundreds of billions of new dollars – that will be passed on to those Californians receiving water through the tunnel. And we remind all Californians, there is not any new water storage being built as part of this project – so it's the same amount of water they get now, but through a gold-plated tunnel.

The people of the Delta deserve better than to have their future traded away through backroom deals like this proposed trailer bill, which the Legislature has already rejected. This project threatens our communities, ecosystems, and local economies while failing to guarantee the water security it promises. Our key concerns include:

- **Astronomical Price Tag:** Three recent independent economic studies show that the Delta Tunnel could cost up to \$100 billion dollars to build over the next 20-40 years with little or no benefit to the people paying the bill.
- **Environmental Harm:** The Delta Tunnel would divert massive volumes of water away from the fragile Delta ecosystem, exacerbating the decline of endangered fish species and threatening water quality.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Bypassing CEQA safeguards and compressing the legal process silences communities, tribal governments, scientists, and environmental justice advocates.

- **Local Impacts Ignored:** Delta counties bear the brunt of the environmental and economic harm yet have been excluded from meaningful participation in project planning.
- **False Promises:** The proposed Delta Tunnel does not create new water—it simply redirects existing supplies, further burdening California’s water system while failing to address the root causes of water scarcity, such as unsustainable agricultural overpumping and inadequate conservation.

The Delta Counties Coalition supports real water solutions that are locally driven, environmentally sound, and climate resilient. Investments in maintaining and strengthening levees, regional self-sufficiency, water recycling, groundwater recharge, above and below ground storage, and conservation can provide more reliable and equitable benefits without sacrificing the Delta and its people. These strategies could produce millions of acre-feet per year, without waiting 20–40 years for a tunnel.

California’s water future should not be built by sacrificing one region to serve another. We call on lawmakers to stand with the Delta, oppose the trailer bills, and insist on a transparent, science-based, and inclusive water solutions that are affordable, sustainable, and work for all Californians — not another megaproject that drains our wallets with little or no benefit.”

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) is an alliance of the California Counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo. The DCC works to give one voice to the Delta. The DCC has three goals: improve the Delta ecosystem, provide a more reliable water supply for the State, and protect and enhance Delta communities. The DCC works with local, state, and federal stakeholders to develop and implement solutions that address California’s water issues in a comprehensive, sustainable manner. For more information about the DCC and its solutions to a Delta Tunnel visit savethedelta.saccounty.gov

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