



### **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 Response to Governor Newsom's Delta Tunnel Proposal and "Accountability Action Plan": The Delta Is Not For Sale**

### **For Immediate Release**

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In response to the Newsom Administration's announcement today to launch a so-called Delta Conveyance Project Accountability Action Plan, Patrick Hume, Chair of the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), made the following statement on behalf of the five jurisdictions that would be most negatively impacted by the Delta Tunnel megaproject:

"Governor Newsom's announcement of a so-called Delta Conveyance Project 'Accountability Action Plan' and a \$200 million Community Benefits Program is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to recycle a plan the Department of Water Resources has been touting for years, pretending it's new news to buy silence from the very communities that will be most devastated by the Delta Tunnel Conveyance Project. And, it doesn't take into account the losses Delta communities would suffer during the decade-plus tunnel building process as well as loss of freshwater flows through the Delta during operations.

We cannot be bought with blood diamonds. If the Governor were truly listening, he would admit that we are asking for a way for our thirsty neighbors to get the water they need, without destroying and disrespecting this history, agricultural productivity, recreational opportunity and ecological fragility of this special place. Invest in upgrading existing infrastructure, increasing storage capacity and throughput and focus on forward thinking projects that use and reuse water more efficiently.

A bad project remains a bad project—no matter how much political gloss or money is thrown at it.

The Administration claims this "new" plan promotes transparency and accountability, but offers few specifics, and nothing enforceable that is not already a requirement for the project.

We see through the spin.

The people of the Delta have consistently and loudly opposed this project through public comment, legal challenges, and community advocacy. The Administration's claim that our concerns are being heard is disingenuous at best.

Let's call this proposal what it is: An attempt at a bribe—one that fundamentally misunderstands and insults the integrity, resilience, and unity of the Delta. We will not be placated. We will not be silenced. And we will not allow our communities to be sacrificed under the false promises of a tunnel that solves none of California's water problems.

The Delta is not for sale and this recycled old news about alleged 'community benefits' doesn't justify the Governor's attempts to remove property, water rights, environmental and ratepayer protections in a Delta tunnel budget

trailer bill later this summer. If the Administration was really listening, it would have proposed sustainable water supply solutions with broad support that would benefit the Delta and all Californians, such as strengthening levees, upgrading existing infrastructure, expanding water recycling, and building resilient storage above and below ground."

*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.sacounty.gov](http://savethedelta.sacounty.gov)*

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