



Delta Counties Coalition

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

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

December 15, 2023

The Honorable Camille Touton
Commissioner
United States Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Re: Deny Request from DWR to Join as a Co-Petitioner for a Change in Point of Diversion for the Delta Conveyance Project

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), comprised of the five counties that make up the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo Counties), respectfully requests that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) not join as a co-petitioner with the California Department of Water Resources in a request before the State Water Resources Control Board for a change in water rights, including a change in point of diversion, to enable the construction of up to three large new intakes on the Sacramento River for the Delta Conveyance Project.

As proposed, this controversial water project would permanently alter and irreparably damage the Delta landscape and waterways, including thousands of acres of family farms and agricultural operations, tribal cultural resources (including burial grounds), and have other detrimental water quality, noise, air quality, and environmental effects from 13 plus years of construction and ensuing operations. Region IX of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expressed repeatedly (most recently in March 2023) that the project would have substantial and unacceptable impacts on aquatic resources of national significance.

In 2019, a highly-contested water rights process was terminated by the state for the California WaterFix after several years of joint effort with Reclamation. This time, Central Valley Water Project water users have not expressed a united interest in participating in the project, likely due to the very high risks and costs associated with construction and operation, and the limited supplies that could be provided from the already overallocated Bay-Delta system. We strongly discourage a decision by Reclamation to join in this project in any way, particularly prior to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completing a review of the full environmental consequences of this project (including both construction and operation) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

December 15, 2023

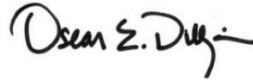
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Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and please feel free to contact us with any questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Patrick Hume, Supervisor
Sacramento County



Oscar Villegas, Supervisor
Yolo County



Ken Carlson, Supervisor
Contra Costa County



Mitch Mashburn, Supervisor
Solano County



Tom Patti, Supervisor
San Joaquin County

cc: Earnest Conant, Regional Director,
Bureau of Reclamation