

# Comment Letter CAWG

CAWG



CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WINEGRAPE  
GROWERS

JAN 12 2006 054

January 11, 2006

Honorable Lester Snow  
Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow:

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**DIRECTOR - AT-LARGE**  
Nat DiBoduro

On behalf of the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), the association representing the interests of this state's growers of winegrapes and juice concentrate, I write today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. This October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In short, we need to make every drop count.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. Collectively, it will improve our state's water supply reliability, water quality, and the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

CAWG-1

*Representing wine and concentrate grape growers.*

601 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 135 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95825-6738  
PHONE: (916) 924-5370 • TOLL FREE: (800) 241-1800 • FAX: (916) 924-5374 • E-MAIL: INFO@CAWG.ORG • WEBSITE: WWW.CAWG.ORG

Jan 12 2006 2:24PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 P. 13

JAN 12 2006 054

Lester Snow  
January 11, 2006  
Page 2

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

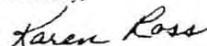
Importantly, SDIP will help protect important Delta environmental resources. Specifically, it will help protect fish species in the Delta channels. At the same time, by providing the state greater flexibility in how and when SDIP operates its system of pumps, fish are granted greater protections.

Given all these points, SDIP is supported by a statewide, broad coalition of water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our farms and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



Karen Ross, President

cc (by facsimile)

Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633  
Hon. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102  
Hon. Ryan Broddrick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, (916) 978-5114  
Mr. Fred Aguilar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
The Gualco Group, Inc.

CAWG-1

Red Gate 6 2:24PM

## Responses to Comments

### CAWG-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter CBIA



**California  
Building  
Industry  
Association**

1215 K Street  
Suite 1200  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/443-7933  
fax 916/443-1960  
www.cbia.org

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Visalia

**CBIA**

August 31, 2005

DEC 22 2005

00016

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for the South Delta Improvement Program**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

California homebuilders, represented by the California Building Industry Association (CBIA), respectfully request that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) proceed with the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) concerning the South Delta Improvement Program ("the Improvement Program"). The EIR process moving forward will allow for the public debate necessary to help policy-makers shape an Improvement Program that is both good for the environment and for the state's water supply.

All Californians have a stake in both protecting the environment and ensuring a continued supply of potable water – now and in the future. With this in mind, it is important for the 90-day public review period for the subject draft EIR to commence immediately. As you know, during this comment period DWR will have an opportunity to conduct outreach throughout the state to provide information, respond to questions and concerns and solicit ideas and recommendations on the proposed Improvement Plan.

Through this public discussion, state policy-makers will be able to judge any and all impacts resulting from the proposed Improvement Program on the public as well as on other stakeholders, including agricultural as well as urban, municipal and industrial water users. Ultimately, this process will advance the most effective procedures to mitigate environmental impacts of the Improvement Program while serving the water supply needs of tens of millions of Californians.

CBIA appreciates your consideration of this matter and looks forward to working with you and members of your administration implement a balanced and constructive Improvement Program.

Very sincerely yours,

Timothy L. Coyle  
Senior Vice President

cc: Honorable Lester Snow, Department of Water Resources

CBIA-1

# Responses to Comments

## CBIA-1

The SDIP Draft EIS/EIR was released for agency and public review on November 10, 2006. The comment period ended on February 7, 2006.

# Comment Letter CBR

CBR

JAN 12 2006 046



## CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

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 Swakke Growers, Inc.  
 Sutter Health  
 Teichert, Inc.  
 Westfield Western Grocers, Inc.  
 Wells Bank of California  
 Wells Fargo & Company

January 9, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow  
 Director, Department of Water Resources  
 P.O. Box 942836  
 Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Mr. Snow,

On behalf of the California Business Roundtable, I am writing today to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs.

California continues to face the critical challenge of providing its citizens with a safe, reliable and high quality water supply. Given our lack of water supplies, the state must better manage and utilize its existing water resources and infrastructure in order to keep pace with its rapidly rising population and growing economy.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan, including the California Business Roundtable and other business organizations, environmental groups, water agencies, farmers, and state and federal water agencies.

We believe the SDIP is the next step in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta and is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our businesses and a thriving economy. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM HAUCK  
 President

cc: Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
 Mr. Mike Chrisman, California Resources Agency  
 Mr. Joe Grindstaff, California Bay-Delta Authority

1215 K Street, Suite 1570 ♦ Sacramento, CA 95814 ♦ Phone: (916) 553-4093 ♦ Fax: (916) 553-4097

CBR-1

Jan 12 2006 2:22PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.3

## Responses to Comments

### CBR-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter CCA



626 Wilshire Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Telephone 213.624.1213  
Facsimile 213.624.0858  
www.ccala.org

CCA

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**Wells Fargo Business Field & Bank**

**The Wells Company**

January 24, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow  
Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE: South Delta Improvements Program**

Dear Director Snow:

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) is L.A.'s premier business advocacy association whose 450 members employ over 300,000 people in the Los Angeles region. CCA supports the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs.

Recently, the DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statements (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge. Residential and commercial users need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. However, due much in part to our state's arid climate, we have very limited water resources. It is vital that we better utilize our existing water resources and infrastructure; otherwise, we put our communities, farms, environment and businesses at great risk. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself.

In 2000, the state and federal governments initiated the historic CalFed Bay-Delta Program to manage the Bay-Delta's water resources and eco-system. A unique collaboration of interests supported the plan including environmental organizations, water agencies, business interests, farmers, and state and federal water and fish agencies. SDIP is the next step forward in this long-term planning effort for the Bay-Delta.

SDIP is a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta. The program will construct seasonal tidal gates to protect fish, and improve water circulation and quality in the Delta, dredge select Delta channels to improve water deliveries for local farmers, and allow State Water Project deliveries to increase modestly – only when needed and environmentally safe to do so.

CCA-1

SDIP  
Page 2-2-2-2

Currently, the state is constrained in its ability to use surplus water supplies. We have the infrastructure to move the water, but until SDIP is approved, the state's water managers cannot fully or responsibly use the existing system. SDIP calls for only a 3-5% increase in the average amount of water pumped from the Delta. More significantly, SDIP will provide the flexibility to shift the timing of water deliveries when surplus is available and when environmentally safe to do so. SDIP is an ideal option for California to advance – it will not require building a new project or the construction of major new infrastructure. And, funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

CCA-1

CCA is proud to be part of a very diverse coalition that supports the SDIP. That coalition includes water, agriculture, business, planning organizations, and local government officials including the Association of California Water Agencies, State Water Contractors, California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Properties Association and the Western Growers Association.

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future.

CCA strongly supports the SDIP and encourages all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Regards,



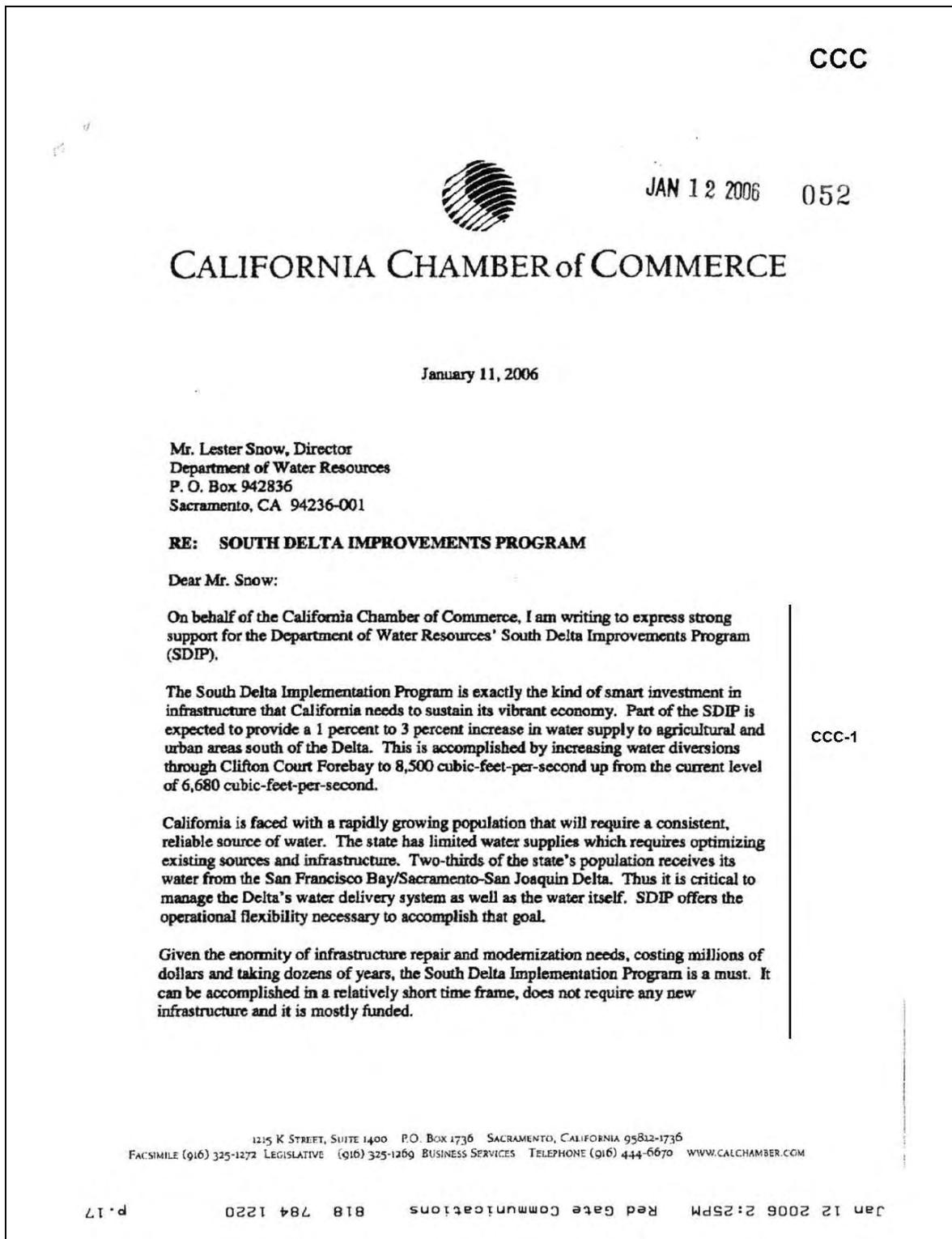
Carol E. Schatz  
President and CEO

## Responses to Comments

### CCA-1

The commenter's description of the project's water supply and environmental benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter CCC



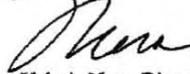
Mr. Lester Snow, Director  
January 11, 2006  
Page 2

JAN 12 2006 052

The Chamber believes that the SDIP should go forward as soon as possible.

CCC-1

Sincerely,



Valerie Nera, Director  
Agriculture, Resources & Privacy

cc The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
Mr. Ryan Brodderick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director California Bay-Delta Authority  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Fred Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

VN:rc

Jan 12 2006 2:25PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.18

## Responses to Comments

### CCC-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

# Comment Letter CCEEB

**CCEEB**

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Environmental and  
Economic Balance**

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JAN 12 2006 053

January 9, 2006

Honorable Lester Snow  
Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

I write on behalf of the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance ("CCEEB"), to express our organization's support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs. Last October, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released a draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) for SDIP, kicking off an important public review and comment process.

CCEEB is a coalition of California business, labor and public leaders which works to advance collaborative strategies for a sound economy and a healthy environment. No other association active in California's environmental policy arena encompasses such a wide range of interested stakeholders.

As you know, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep up with our rapidly rising population and fast-growing trillion-dollar economy. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given its importance, we need better ways to manage the Delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. In short, we need to make every drop count.

CCEEB-1

**CONSULTANTS**

Jackson R. Gabele  
THE GOMALOGNOFF PCL

Robert W. Lucas  
LUCAS ADVOCATES

Gen. Edmund G. Paul Brown  
FOUNDING CHAIRMAN 1973

www.cceeb.org



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Honorable Lester Snow  
Page two  
January 11, 2006

JAN 12 2006 053

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CCEEB-1

Jan 12 2006 2:26PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.20

JAN 12 2006 053

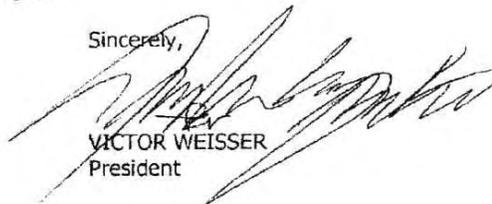
The Honorable Lester Snow  
Page three  
January 11, 2006

Water is the lifeblood of California – critical to our farms and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

CCEEB-1

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,



VICTOR WEISSER  
President

cc (by facsimile):

Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger, (916) 445-4633  
Hon. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency, (916) 653-8102  
Hon. Ryan Broddrick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-7387  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority, (916) 445-7297  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, (916) 978-5114  
Mr. Fred Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358  
Mr. Dan Skopec, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, (916) 324-6358

Jan 12 2006 2:27PM Red Gate Communications 818 784 1220 p.21

## Responses to Comments

### CCEEB-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.

## Comment Letter CFFU

CFFU



### *CALIFORNIA FLY FISHERS UNLIMITED*

Since 1962, Sacramento's Oldest Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 162997 • Sacramento, CA 95816

FEB 09 2006 00167

February 6, 2006

Mr. Paul A. Marshall  
California Department of Water Resources  
1416 9th Street – 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) DEIR/EIS.

Our organization does not support the current project as proposed in your environmental document and strongly opposes diversions of any additional water from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta at this time.

California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU) is a fly fishing and conservation club that represents over 220 conservationists in the greater Sacramento/Northern California area. We are actively involved in furthering the sport of fly fishing and protecting the fisheries resource of California.

Recently a combined team of state and federal experts announced a major decline in the Delta smelt, longfin smelt, threadfin shad and juvenile striped bass over the most recent four year period. They also indicated alarming declines in plankton species that these small fish and in turn larger fish depend upon. One of the key factors that they attributed to these declines is the increased exportation of water out of the Delta. Though further studies are underway, answers to this critical problem are yet undetermined.

Moving ahead with the SDIP that will increase Delta water exportation makes no sense when Delta fish populations are crashing. Please withdraw the SDIP DEIR/S until the causes of the Delta fish decline are identified and fully resolved.

CFFU-1

Mr. Paul A Marshall  
California Department of Water Resources  
February 6, 2006  
Page 2 of 2

FEB 09 2006 00167

Significant impacts on other northern California rivers, like the Trinity and Klamath Rivers are a real possibility due to potential diversions to the Delta to compensate for increased exports. These diversions would have additional impacts on an already troubled fishery in those watersheds.

CFFU-2

CFFU strongly urges you to withdraw the SDIP DEIR/EIS and to stop any projects that would increase Delta exports until the current crisis in the Delta ecosystem is effectively and completely resolved.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Felts  
President

## Responses to Comments

### CFFU-1

Please see Master Response B, *Relationship between the South Delta Improvements Program and the Pelagic Organism Decline*.

### CFFU-2

Please see Master Response N, *Trinity River Operations*.





**CALIFORNIA  
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COALITION**

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Kern County Water Agency

**Daniel G. Vink**

Lower Tule River Irrigation  
District

DEC 06 2005

000002

Comments by  
Mike Wade, Executive Director  
California Farm Water Coalition

Draft Environmental Impact Report/State  
South Delta Improvements Program

California Department of Water Resources  
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

We've seen and experienced what self-serving objections have done to the CalFed program....it has been pushed into a morass of activity and inactivity that has jeopardized its future. The South Delta Improvements Program has emerged as part of the CalFed process and offers a positive path forward to both enhancing the water quality in the Delta and providing a flexibility of water flows through the Delta. It must not be allowed to slip into a similar pattern that prevents it from moving forward.

Temporary barriers have been in place for several years. The resulting flow patterns have been studied over several years by scientists and researchers seeking a means to improve the water quality in the Delta. The result of this activity has been volumes of data that indicate permanent operable gates, when operated correctly, would provide substantial benefits to the Delta.

The list of initial benefactors of this action begins with the Delta environment. The pools of fresh water collected behind the operable gates would immediately provide a safer environment for fish and plant life. Recent news stories of several Delta fish species have placed these species in jeopardy. Research is indicating that the pooling of fresh water may serve a beneficial use to their existence.

CFCW1-1

[www.farmwater.org](http://www.farmwater.org)

*Food Grows Where Water Flows*

1

DEC 06 2006

00002

Salmon migrating through the Delta have long been a concern and, once again, studies are indicating that the South Delta Improvements Program and its permanent operable gates, when operated correctly, will aid in the survival of the salmon.

Will increased supplies of water be available to be exported south of the Delta be a result of the South Delta Improvements Program? Maybe...but that is why a second review period is scheduled to consider proposed operational improvements to the State Water Project. Early indications show that any increase in exports may amount to only 3 to 5 percent. Another important benefit of the permanent operable gates is the increased flexibility provided to the operations of the State Water Project.

Benefits resulting from the South Delta Improvements Program are spread not only in the Delta but throughout our state. The opportunity to move forward toward an improved water future for all of California is great and no criticisms from self-serving interest groups that employ a myopic viewpoint should threaten this future.

While the California Farm Water Coalition represents the agricultural community of California, we recognize that the benefits of the South Delta Improvements Program are widespread and urge implementation of this important program

CFCW1-1

## Responses to Comments

### CFCW1-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.





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**Daniel G. Vink**

Lower Tule River Irrigation

District

*Executive Director*

**Michael Wade**

[www.farmwater.org](http://www.farmwater.org)

DEC 09 2005

00006

Comments by  
Mike Henry, Assistant Executive Director  
California Farm Water Coalition

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
South Delta Improvements Program

California Department of Water Resources  
Wednesday, December 7, 2005

The South Delta Improvements Program offers an opportunity to take positive action in securing a reliable water future for California. This program will solve many of the longstanding water quality and water level problems in the South Delta area. It recognizes the importance of meeting local needs of agriculture while addressing statewide concerns over adequate water supplies and environmental protections.

It is important to recognize the years of study by scientists and researchers that has resulted in the South Delta Improvements Program. In addition to providing immediate results to the Delta's environment and agricultural community, it also opens the door to increased flexibility in the operation of the State Water Project.

The permanent operable gates present the opportunity to improve water quality in the Delta by pooling fresh water behind the gates. Such action would create a safer environment for fish and plant life. Recent concerns have surfaced over several fish species in the Delta. Research leading to the South Delta Improvements Program suggests that the pooling of fresh water will serve a beneficial use to the existence of these species.

The Delta can no longer be looked at as a regional issue. Its future is closely linked to the future of all California. Following a second review period to consider proposed operational improvements to the State Water Project, an increase in water exported from the Delta may result that would serve millions of California residents.

The California Farm Water Coalition is a public education organization committed to the use of water on our State's farms. The action steps lined out in the South Delta Improvements Program offer improved water quality to the farming community in the Delta. This is an important first step.

Viewpoints expressed by SDIP critics exclaiming a "NIMBY" approach should not be allowed to derail this very important action. The California Farm Water Coalition supports the forward movement of the South Delta Improvements Program on behalf of the California Department of Water Resources and related agencies.

CFWC2-1

*Food Grows Where Water Flows*

## Responses to Comments

### CFWC2-1

The commenter's description of the project's benefits and support for the project are noted.