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January 29, 2006

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Director Lester A. Snow
16 - 9th Street, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, California 95814

E: SOUTH DELTA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

I have been boating on the Delta since 1978 and have lived in Discovery Bay since 1992. This is truly a marvel; this Delta was built over a hundred years ago. Imagine placing waterways above the land, an amazing accomplishment of our ancestors. Since it does not rain in Northern California all summer, it is imperative that we can have a viable delta to insure water for our farms, (the richest farm land in the world) and our population.

I attended last weeks hearing in Stockton not knowing anything about the subject and thought the meeting had to do with our levee system. The meeting lasted 2 ½ hours and the concentration was on exporting more water to Southern California. The fishermen were united in opposing the SDIP project due to the disappearance of the fish population. The fact that the sturgeon population has gone from 140,000 to 10,000 in just 5 years must be alarming to all. Farmers are finding salt on their land. This is a result of too much water going south, more pumping would only exacerbate this problem. A personal observation is that we are seeing more sea lions in Discovery Bay than I can ever remember. It use to be a rare occurrence and now I find them sleeping on my neighbors dock. It seems unusual since sea lions natural home is sea water.

The Delta consists of over 1 thousand miles of waterway, which is held up by levees. Without these levees there will be no water to send anywhere. I have observed these levees and it is imperative that they be properly maintained, not repaired after a failure. The improvements to the South Delta and entire Delta should start with maintenance of existing levees restoring the proper balance of fish population and make sure the ecology is in balance before the reckless deportation of water that makes the Delta viable.

I understand Southern California is in great need of water and there is not an easy solution. Your band aid approach to temporarily fixing Southern California water needs by exporting Delta water at the cost of possibly losing the Delta. When it is gone your short- sighted approach will rest with the future generations of Californians. Colorado river stands as a perfect example where it once flowed into the Gulf of California and now is almost dried up. This not only affects the Delta, but will also have a dramatic effect on San Francisco Bay and the entire state of California. The absence of fish speaks for itself.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jerry Creech
Discovery Bay Homeowner

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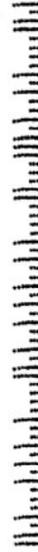


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