



*Submitted via senate.ca.gov portal*

April 18, 2023

The Chair of the Committee Senator Ben Allen  
1021 O Street, Suite 6610  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Senator.Allen@senate.CA.gov

**Re: Letter of Support for SB 687: Bay Delta Plan Update**

Dear Mr. Allen:

Restore the Delta, and partners joining this letter, are writing to support Senator Eggman's SB 687, a bill that would ensure that the State Water Resources Control Board updates the Bay-Delta Plan before considering a change in point of diversion permit associated with the Delta Conveyance Project. Doing so, would prevent Delta water diversions to occur as a result of the Delta Conveyance Project unless the updated Bay-Delta Plan is fully implemented.

Updating the Bay-Delta Plan is critical to protecting Delta communities, Tribes, and fishermen who depend on the Delta. An updated Bay-Delta Plan is essential to protect the water quality of the Delta for both urban and rural communities who rely on these vital resources, which is threatened by the proliferation of harmful algal blooms, saltwater intrusion, agricultural run-off and other sources of pollution.

Environmental Justice communities have not only been redlined into living near these polluted waters but also face the health dangers and risks associated, as these communities interact and often fish for sustenance in these waters.

*Re: Letter of Support for SB 687: Bay Delta Plan Update*

Although the Bay Delta Plan was revised to near completion in 2006, those revisions were not implemented, nor have they undergone a comprehensive update establishing San Joaquin River flows and Delta salinity. At this stage of the process, it is unclear how, when, or even if the Bay-Delta Plan will be updated or implemented before diversion permits are considered. It is essential that the Bay Delta Plan be updated prior to approving large scale diversions through the Delta Conveyance project as it would only hurt the quality of life for Delta communities who rely on it.

It is crucial to update the Bay-Delta Plan because doing so will allow ratepayers to understand how much water the Delta Conveyance Project will deliver and the cost effectiveness of the multi-million-dollar investment. It will also provide insight to ratepayers who are interested in investing in the construction of the Delta Conveyance Project. Finally, it can speed up permitting of water infrastructure projects in the Bay Delta as it addresses lack of updated flow and water quality requirements. SB 687 has been written to specify that the only water rights that can be stopped are those associated with the Delta Conveyance Project.

The goal of the bill is to ensure that water quality does not degrade and that any future permits granted for diversion comply with scientific standards and basis within the updates and implemented Bay-Delta Plan.

Senator Allen, we urge you to support SB 687 as it reflects the best interests of frontline Delta communities, Tribes, and fishermen by protecting beneficial uses and public trust resources in the Bay-Delta.

Sincerely,



Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla  
Executive Director  
Restore the Delta



Councilmember Kimberly Warmesley  
City of Stockton  
District 6



RC Thompson  
Executive Director  
Reinvent South Stockton Coalition



Reatha Hardy-Jordan  
Director  
Black Urban Farmers Association (BUFA)



Tama Brisbane  
Executive Director  
With Our Words



Dillon Delvo  
Executive Director  
Little Manila Rising

*Re: Letter of Support for SB 687: Bay Delta Plan Update*



Reverend Nelson Rabell  
Pastor  
Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina



Phillip Merlo  
Executive Director  
San Joaquin County Historical Museum