



May 19, 2025

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, State Assembly

The Honorable Mike McGuire
President pro Tempore, State Senate

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget Committee

Via Electronic Mail:

RE: Water Proposals in the May Revise

Dear Speaker Rivas, President pro Tempore McGuire, and Budget Chairs Gabriel and Wiener:

As tribes and organizations dedicated to equitable stewardship of California's water, we write to urge you to reject the Governor's proposals regarding the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) and additional trailer bill language eliminating environmental review for the remainder of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. These proposals are not in the best interest of people served by the State Water Project and they do not advance climate resilience. Additionally, they would harm tribes and communities that rely on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

When the legislature passed the Delta Reform Act in 2009, it did so with the understanding that achieving co-equal goals for Delta management required reducing reliance on the Delta for agricultural and municipal water use in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. Sixteen years later, we are still witnessing a refusal from the Governor's administration and State Water Contractors to act in good faith. The DCP would take more water out of the Delta, and, combined with the proposed trailer bill language and the Voluntary Agreements (deceptively branded as the "Healthy Rivers and Landscapes" program), restrict the ability of the State Water Board to set and enforce rules to improve Delta water quality.

Furthermore, the DCP's \$20.1 billion cost estimate, which could balloon due to tariffs and other factors, would create additional affordability burdens on households already struggling to make ends meet. The DCP runs contrary to the legislature's focus on affordability. Moreover, it isn't necessary to create water resilience in Southern California. Conservation, local supply projects, and agricultural use reductions necessary for climate and equity are sufficient and far more cost-effective to maintain a robust Southern California economy.

The stubborn insistence on pursuing an environmentally ruinous and financially burdensome project now exists in tandem with a hostile federal government intent on weakening environmental laws, diverting more water out of the Delta, and raising Shasta Dam, which would permanently destroy tribal sites and livelihoods. For tribes and communities in the Delta, the Governor's proposals along with federal government actions would decimate the fisheries and other ecosystem services that allow tribes to maintain their ways of life and allow environmental justice communities to have access to healthy waterways.

We appreciate the challenge you face with this year's budget and thank you for your consideration of our requests. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Krystal Moreno at kmoreno@ssband.org or (916) 271-4624

Sincerely,

Malissa Tayaba
Vice Chair
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

Gary Mulcahy
Government Liasson
Winnemem Wintu Tribe

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla
Executive Director
Restore the Delta

Gloria Alonso Cruz
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