

December 4, 2007

Delores Brown, Chief  
Office of Environmental Compliance  
California Department of Water Resource  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Chief Brown,

I oppose the proposed SWP Amendments that would fundamentally change how the State Water Project (SWP) delivers water to 23 million Californians. These would:

- Eliminate the common-sense provision requiring DWR to determine the realistic water yield of the SWP. Without knowing the actual safe yield of the SWP, DWR has and will continue to promise to deliver paper water, (water which actually does not exist in the real world). Already, the promise of paper water has resulted in over-reliance and over-pumping on Delta water, inevitable cutbacks in water supplies, and ultimately decreased water supply reliability.
- Encourage the over-pumping of Delta water in the winter and spring months, which has already, under the provisional use of the Monterey Amendments, contributed to the massive decline of the Delta smelt and other Bay Delta fish populations.
- Eliminate contract provisions that provide drought safeguards for urban areas. DWR's own analysis shows that in dry years like 2001, water supplies for homes and businesses in urban areas will be reduced by over 400,000 acre-feet, (a reduction of 26% of total urban water deliveries from the SWP).
- Give away the State owned Kern Water Bank, one of the largest water storage facilities in the California.
- Transfer millions of dollars in costs to taxpayers, while rebating millions to individual water agencies.

I believe such changes would be seriously detrimental to the public interest.

  
K Martin Stevenson

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