



November 13, 2020

Zone 7 Water Agency  
Board of Directors  
100 North Canyons Parkway  
Livermore, CA 94551

Submitted via email

**Re: Delta Conveyance Project**

Dear Board of Directors:

On behalf of Sierra Club California and our more than 500,000 members and supporters statewide, **we write to urge you not to fund this next phase of the Delta Conveyance (aka the Delta Tunnel) project.**

Our members, supporters, and staff are well-versed in California's efforts to develop and implement smart, equitable water policies that support our communities and economy while also protecting the state's precious environment. And with this knowledge and experience, we routinely participate in the necessary public processes and forums that can yield resilient and sustainable water management policies for all Californians.

The Delta Tunnel project is estimated to cost \$16 billion, before inflation, and up to \$40 billion. Ratepayers will see higher water bills and property taxes with no guarantee of a sustainable water supply. The proposed expenditure request from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is made at a time when the state is struggling with the pandemic and economic recession. It also comes at a time when climate change suggests that dependence on imported water is less viable and less sustainable than ever.

**Instead of supporting the tunnel, we urge you to push the Department of Water Resources to help develop plans for meeting California's water demand without the tunnel.** Those projects would include improvements made to existing infrastructure around the state, and investments in local, sustainable water sourcing through conservation, groundwater remediation and recharge, water recycling, stormwater capture, and inland brackish water desalination. These improvements will make the need for the tunnel obsolete while creating local jobs and continuing to reduce water demand.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to work with you in this process.

Sincerely,

Brandon Dawson  
Policy Advocate  
Sierra Club California

Charming Evelyn  
Sierra Club California Water Committee Co-Chair