



# San Juan Water District

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August 17, 2009

Senator Darrell Steinberg  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comprehensive Delta Package

Dear Senator Steinberg:

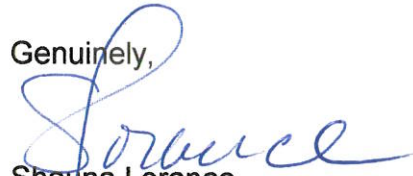
San Juan Water District, Citrus Heights Water District, Fair Oaks Water District, Orange Vale Water Company, Sacramento Suburban Water District, and the cities of Folsom and Roseville all support a comprehensive solution to the Delta's ecosystem and water-supply problems. Our agencies, however, are seriously concerned that the current preprint bills would, if enacted, significantly impact water supplies and water rates throughout the Sacramento region and would not provide a comprehensive solution to the Delta's problems. Because you represent the region, we would like to meet with you to discuss those bills, including the following issues that they present:

- The bills focus on fixing the broken ecosystem. Discussions regarding the need to fix the state's overall water supply problems are vexingly absent from most of the bills. This is a crucial omission for our region because, as the rest of the state looks to the Central Valley for more and more water, our agencies' area of origin water rights will be eroded unless the state increases overall surface water and groundwater supplies.
- Preprint AB 1 and SB 1 just assume that upstream regions like the Sacramento region should contribute substantial water to a Delta solution because we divert water from Delta tributaries. Unlike Delta exports, our diversions have not changed the Delta's salinity patterns or drawn Delta fish species into pumps. Without evidence that our region's diversions have contributed substantially to the Delta's problems, our water supplies should not be put at substantial risk.
- Similarly, without evidence that the Sacramento region's diversions have substantially damaged the Delta, the region's ratepayers should not be targeted to pay fees to support a new Delta council. Preprint SB 1, however, proposes that such fees be imposed on our ratepayers without checks and balances and with no limit of the amount of those fees.

- If adopted, the proposals in preprint AB 1 and SB 1 for the State Water Resources Control Board to expedite the adoption of stream flow requirements throughout the Delta watershed by 2012 will trigger acrimonious, expensive and long disputes that will be obstacles to implementing actual Delta solutions.
- The preprint water conservation bill, preprint AB 2, would impose a "one size fits all" approach across the state, even in areas like the Sacramento region that have sufficient local water supplies. The bill says that regional differences are important in developing water use efficiency targets (p. 3, lines 28-39), but then does not consider regional differences in actually setting targets. Moreover, the bill does not state that water agencies will retain their rights to water that they will conserve. Such protection is crucial because it could allow agencies to fund conservation measures through water transfers and reduce conservation's financial burden on the Sacramento area's ratepayers. Water Code section 1011's water-right protection should be extended explicitly to all water saved under any new conservation legislation.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss these issues.

Genuinely,



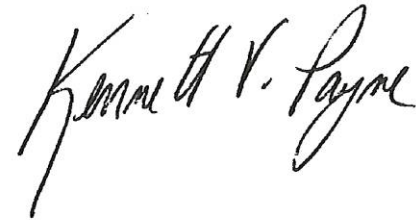
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