

From: [Terry Saucier](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Subject: re: Tuesday, Oct. 27 - 11 AM MWD Board Meeting - Oppose funding next phase of Delta Tunnel
Date: Monday, October 26, 2020 10:56:10 PM

RE: MWD Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11am - Delta Tunnel

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to funding the next phase of the Delta Tunnel project in December. Please discontinue the Delta tunnel and require the DWR to include an environmental report in its EIR that does not include a tunnel but instead focuses on local investments and projects that will result in less dependence on the Delta. The tunnel project will result in MWD ratepayers receiving higher water bills and property taxes. MWD has already spent \$175 million to buy islands in the Delta, then another \$50m was pledged in April. MWD could be on the hook for \$222 million over the next four years just for planning the tunnel. To build the project, MWD will be expected in 2024 to devote at least \$11 billion to actual construction of the tunnel--and that will be paid without any guarantee that there will be sufficient water flowing through the tunnels to make it worth it.

The Delta Tunnel plans also disregard climate change. There is no certainty that there will be enough water to make the tunnel worth it. In fact, scientists are predicting less precipitation and lower river flows available in Northern California in coming years.

Local and regional projects should include improvements to existing infrastructure around the state, and investments in local, sustainable water sourcing- like conservation, groundwater remediation and recharge through water recycling, and stormwater capture. DWR claims that the single tunnel project will offer water supply reliability with the least amount of environmental damage possible. But in reality, the tunnel project offers NO reliability, incurs MASSIVE environmental damage, decimates Delta communities, and results in HIGHER water costs for southern Californians.

Please urge DWR to seriously analyze the “Commonsense” alternative in the environmental impact report for the tunnel that includes no construction of the tunnel and prioritizes investment in- and the use of- projects and technologies that reuse, recycle and conserve local and regional water supplies. Local and regional water supplies are the only supplies that are truly resilient to the uncertainties of climate change and seismic risks. Californians value the protection and preservation of our unique natural resources. A “commonsense” alternative protects the Delta by reducing the need for Delta exports and allowing more water to flow through the ecosystem for the benefit of Delta salmon, smelt and other fish species as well as all the wildlife that depend on the ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration in voting to OPPOSE the Delta tunnel.

Kind regards,
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Albert Einstein "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value..."

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