



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County
"Working together on water and Delta issues"

November 10, 2022

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
United States House of Representatives
503 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) writes to express strong support for HR 8849, the *Stop Delta Tunnels Act*, introduced by Congressman Harder, and urges you to consider cosponsoring this important legislation. If enacted, HR 8849 would prohibit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from issuing a federal permit for the misguided Delta Conveyance Project (DCP).

As you know, the DCP is an environmentally destructive project that would affect Delta communities for years to come. The impacts from just the construction of a 45-mile long, 39-foot outer diameter tunnel around the Delta would span a decade-plus and disturb thousands of acres of farmland, grasslands, wetlands and riparian habitat. Additionally, toxic air pollutants, including particulate matter, would increase – and at times double – across the region, endangering the health of Delta residents.

Once operational the DCP would provide for the diversion of roughly one-third to one-half of the average flow of the Sacramento River. Also, the DCP's Preferred Alternative (Bethany alternative) includes an additional 6,000 cubic feet of export pumping capacity in the south Delta. That represents a 58% increase in the capacity of the State Water Project export pumps in the South Delta. This would deprive the Delta of badly needed freshwater inflows, thus increasing salinity levels and significantly degrading Delta water quality and agriculture. Reduced freshwater inflows would also result in increased outbreaks of harmful algal blooms in what is an already fragile ecosystem.

The DCC supports more thoughtful, resilient solutions to address California's longstanding water challenges. For example, we support building greater regional self-sufficiency by improving water supplies through various means, including stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, recycling and reuse, and water conservation. We also support improving through-Delta conveyance by dedicating increased resources toward maintaining and armoring existing levees.

We appreciate all you have done to help protect the Delta and the communities we serve. We hope that you will consider cosponsoring Congressman Harder's HR 8849.

November 10, 2022

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Please feel free to contact us or DCC Coordinator Elisia De Bord at deborde@saccounty.gov or (916) 874-4227.

Sincerely,



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Supervisor, Sacramento County



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