



Delta Counties Coalition

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"Working together on water and Delta issues"

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Dave Min, Chair
Senate Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 687 (Eggman). Water Quality Control Plan: Delta Conveyance Project. – Support
Hearing: April 11, 2023**

Dear Senator Min:

The Delta Counties Coalition supports SB 687 (Eggman), which would require the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to update the Bay-Delta Plan before considering a change in point of diversion permit associated with the Delta Conveyance Project, and would prevent the Delta Conveyance Project from operating unless and until the updated Bay-Delta Plan is fully implemented.

Updating the Bay-Delta Plan prior to the Board's consideration of the Delta Conveyance Project is critical to protecting Delta communities, Tribes, and fishermen who depend on the Delta. An updated Bay-Delta Plan is an important tool to protect the water quality of the Delta for farms and cities who rely on these vital resources, which is threatened by the proliferation of harmful algal blooms, saltwater intrusion, and other sources of pollution. However, the Board has not completed the update of the Bay-Delta Plan, nor has the Board implemented the Plan.

An updated Bay-Delta Plan is also important to ratepayers who would ultimately need to determine whether to pay for construction of the Delta Conveyance Project. An updated Bay-Delta Plan would allow ratepayers to understand how much water the project might deliver, and to determine the cost-effectiveness of this multi-billion dollar investment.

SB 687 has been narrowly crafted so that the only water rights processes that would potentially be affected are those associated with the Delta Conveyance Project. The goal of the bill is to ensure that the Delta Conveyance Project does not further degrade water quality in the Delta, and that any water right permit for the project would comport with the updated and implemented Bay-Delta Plan.

For the author's future consideration, the DCC suggests that the language regarding "any other isolated Delta conveyance project" (see lines 5-6) be slightly revised to account for the fact that the Department of Water Resources appears to consider the Delta Conveyance Project to be a dual conveyance project. Thus, section 85090(c) would read as follows:

(c) Nothing in this section shall constitute an authorization for or approval of funding for the Delta Conveyance or any other ~~isolated Delta conveyance~~ project that includes isolated Delta conveyance facilities, and shall not reduce any statutory or other regulatory conditions or permit requirements for Delta Conveyance projects.

The DCC respectfully requests an AYE vote for SB 687. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor
Sacramento County



Oscar Villegas, Supervisor
Yolo County



Ken Carlson, Supervisor
Contra Costa County



Mitch Mashburn, Supervisor
Solano County



Tom Patti, Supervisor
San Joaquin County

cc: Hon. Susan Eggman
Chair and Members, Senate Natural Resources Committee
Delta Legislative Caucus