

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

R E S O L U T I O N

R-07- 534

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PERIPHERAL CANAL, OR  
ISOLATED WATER CONVEYANCE FACILITY BY CALIFORNIA WATER INTERESTS

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WHEREAS, in 1982, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution opposing the authorization, funding and construction of the proposed Peripheral Canal, or similar isolated water transfer facility to carry Sacramento River water around the Delta to the State and Federal pumps, as authorized by then Senate Bill 200; and,

WHEREAS, that position was re-asserted by additional actions taken by the Board in 1992, and again in 1998, under the CALFED Program; and,

WHEREAS, the State Water Project has not developed the five million acre-feet of water from North Coast watersheds, which was planned to supplement water supplies in the Delta for in-basin and export use; and,

WHEREAS, excessive exports of water from the Delta occur at times and amounts which cause injury to in-Delta water users and the environment, including endangered species; and,

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger established the Delta Vision Committee, a Blue Ribbon Task Force and a Stakeholder Coordination Group to help develop a Delta vision and strategic plan. This visioning process has progressed to the point where the Coordination Group recently submitted a Preliminary Recommendations Report that includes two primary options, the Flexible Delta and the Resilient Adaptive Delta. While this effort has outlined possible approaches that may allow the Delta to meet future beneficial needs, it also revives and calls for the studies, modeling, investigations, and potential development of an isolated water conveyance facility such as the Peripheral Canal, singularly or as a part of a dual conveyance system; and,

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of a Peripheral Canal, or a similar facility would require the taking of prime agricultural land and possibly urban areas for the construction of the canal itself, and the loss of additional acreage from seepage from that canal will cause severance damage to additional prime agricultural land; will sever and impair utilities and local road systems; will create significant new flood dangers to agricultural lands and urban areas within the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County; will adversely affect the water rights of water users within San Joaquin

County; will circumvent the Delta common pool; and will seriously impair Delta water quality and an adequate supply for all beneficial uses; and the protection of fish, wildlife, and other recreational resources within this County; and,

WHEREAS, there are other more viable alternatives to a Peripheral Canal, which would continue the transfer of water from the Sacramento River through the existing channels of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Clifton Court Forebay that can be constructed much more rapidly and at substantially less cost, and will not create all the damage and problems that would be created by the construction of an isolated water conveyance facility; and,

WHEREAS, the State of California itself, through the California Water Plan Update 2005, has stressed the need for more integrated regionally focused water resource solutions, including greater conjunctive use, desalinization, conservation, recycling, and improved flood plain management to establish greater regional self sufficiency in areas of the State that rely on imported water supplies; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors opposes the development of a Peripheral Canal, or any other isolated water conveyance facility in the Delta, and hereby urges the following:

1. That State water interests pursue regional solutions and limit exports from the Delta to water which is truly surplus to all present and future beneficial needs including environmental needs of the Delta and other areas of origin.
2. That the Delta be maintained as a common pool of good quality water for local and export water use.
3. That new water supplies in the State of California be developed through greater conservation, recycling, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, desalinization of brackish and ocean waters, local water storage, water reclamation and improved management of flood waters for the recharge of overdrafted groundwater basins.
4. That local and regional water resource management activities be supported to develop and utilize local regulatory storage and other projects for improved conjunctive use, recharge capability and groundwater storage.
5. That Delta levees strengthened and gates and other facilities installed at strategic locations to improve Delta sustainability and facilitate recovery from flood, seismic and other emergencies.
6. That emergency response plan be developed, financed and implemented to provide improved State and local capability to respond to flood, seismic and other emergencies in the Delta.

R-07-534

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9/18/07, by the following  
vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

AYES: VOGEL, RUHSTALLER, ORNELLAS, GUTIERREZ, MOW

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ATTEST: LOIS M. SAHYOUN  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
of the County of San Joaquin,  
State of California

BY   
Deputy Clerk



Victor Mow, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
San Joaquin County Flood Control  
and Water Conservation District  
State of California

PERIPHERAL-RESO DOC