



Bay Delta Conservation Plan, Twin Tunnels, and Alternatives

The Delta is the largest estuary on the west coast and it is fed by major rivers including the Sacramento which provide the flow and connection to the ocean for migrating fish and birds. The Delta as well as the watersheds that feed it are in decline, for so many reasons, but mismanagement and over allocation of water are two significant factors adding to the decline.

The way we get and use water is due for an overhaul. The Governor is calling for an expensive engineering project like those that have preceded and have contributed to our current water problems. Others have developed plans that take a new approach to water management and Delta restoration including conservation, reuse, restoration, and regional self-sufficiency.

	Bay Delta Conservation Plan Project Specifics	BDCP Consequences	There is an Alternative
\$\$\$\$\$	Estimated \$25 billion for initial construction. And up to \$61 billion over the next 35 years.	San Joaquin agriculture and southern California water users will pay for some of the construction costs, but the estimated \$9 billion in habitat mitigation for the project will be subsidized by taxpayers.	Water conservation, levee repair, river restoration, improved fish screens, and responsible export is estimated to cost \$12 billion.
	The twin tunnels, ~40ft in diameter each and 35 miles long, will have the capacity to export 9,000 cubic feet per second of water.	To meet south of the Delta demand, there will be an increase in demand for surface water sales from the north state, resulting in groundwater substitution, and a lowering water table. As it is, Delta water is over-allocated.	Export based on natural limitations and the State Water Resources Control Board flow criteria, results in more water for fish as well as supports Area of Origin water rights and local groundwater resources.
	Three new outlets will take water from the North Delta and route the Sacramento River around the Delta for export.	New South Delta screens are not included as part of the plan nor will they be removed. The plan will continue to rely on the South Delta pumps for a substantial percentage of project exports.	Install improved fish screens at existing Delta Pumps. Modernize fish screens to reduce fish kills at the pumps.
	A key purpose of the tunnels is to avoid water transfer disruption in the case of an earthquake.	There is currently no money allocated for levee repair in the delta, although this is a more cost effective solution to protect the people in the Delta and water supply for California.	Reinforce core levees above current standards, addressing earthquakes, improving flood and emergency response, and allowing stream-side vegetation on levees to improve habitat.

Take Action: Say No to the Tunnels, Yes to Alternatives

- Show the film ‘Over Troubled Waters’ about the Bay Delta issue to friends and organizations (available free at the BEC office and the Chico Public Library)
- Write letters to the editor in response to stories and editorials (list is below, check individual websites for format and details)
- Write letters and call your representatives (key contacts are below)
- Understand your own water use and take steps to conserve

Tips when letter writing:

- Address the issue that resonates with you, stick with the facts, be respectful, send a copy to everyone on the list, and ask for a response.

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Local Newspapers: *Chico News and Review * The Enterprise Record * The Record Searchlight
*The Red Bluff Daily News *The Sacramento Bee *The Paradise Post *Oroville Mercury Register