



CA Save Our Streams Council

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3173
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 1713 (Eggman) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Eggman:

Our groups are pleased to strongly support Assembly Bill 1713 which prohibits the construction of the peripheral canal, twin tunnels, or other isolated conveyance project, to divert water directly from the Sacramento River to the State and Federal pumping facilities in the south Delta unless expressly authorized by an initiative approved by California voters. The bill also requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to complete an economic feasibility analysis prior to a vote.

As a controversial multi-billion dollar infrastructure project, the permitting process for the twin tunnels should be transparent. Accordingly, ultimate approval should rest with the ratepayers and taxpayers who may be required to pay for the project. In particular, the people most impacted by the twin tunnels project deserve the right to vote to approve or disapprove this project, which will do irreparable harm to the Delta and upstream tributaries to benefit one part of the state at the expense of another.

Our concern goes beyond whether the Delta tunnels will be built or not. There is a clear and undeniable connection between the tunnels and proposed upstream surface storage projects. For example, in its NODOS Highlights (May 2014), the California Department of Water Resources indicates that if the Delta tunnels are constructed, all water from the proposed Sites Reservoir allocated to maintain water quality in the Delta is sold to water contractors south of the Delta. This would be a disaster for the Delta ecosystem and its endangered fish species and for Delta farmers who depend on fresh water flowing through the estuary to irrigate their crops.

More than thirty years ago, voters had the opportunity to vote on peripheral canal and they should be given the same respect this time as well. For all of these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1713. Thank you for your leadership and authorship of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Eric Wesselman
Friends of the River



Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla
Restore the Delta



Bill Jennings
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance



Lucas Ray RossMerz
Sacramento River Preservation Trust



Jennifer Clary
Clean Water Action

/s/ Amber Shelton
Environmental Protection Information Center



Cecily Smith
Foothill Conservancy

/s/ Lloyd Carter
CA Save Our Streams Council



Lowell Ashbaugh
Northern California Council of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers

/s/ Jonas Minton
Planning and Conservation League

/s/ Konrad Fisher
Klamath Riverkeeper



Carolee Krieger
C-WIN

/s/ Dan Bacher
Fish Sniffer magazine

/s/ Adam Scow
Food & Water Watch