



"If it were easy, everyone would do it." – Lisa Hume

Longtime readers know that a frequent subject of my newsletter is related to my crusade against the proposed Delta tunnel. Usually, it is an update about the project generally and our efforts to sway opinion and focus toward more reasonable water solutions. I am acutely aware that this may have minimal relevance to my constituents that don't live in or near the Delta. Here is why this edition's article is different: the Governor is trying to use a legislative procedural move that undermines democracy.

As a part of his May budget revise (an annual reckoning of budget proposals to true up expected revenue and expenses), he proposed trailer bills related to approvals of the tunnel project. Think of it as an "oh, by the way" to the legislators as an add-on to a process that is mandated to occur.

In the Governor's proposal, he asks to severely undermine the environmental review process, to limit the oversight and efficacy of the judicial review of project entitlements and issue a blank check for the bonding capacity to pay for it. So, let's not invoke the full effect of CEQA for the potentially most ruinous project for the largest freshwater estuary in the Western United States, undermine the protections and Rule of Law provided to those who bring forth objection and burden the ratepayers (and, potentially all taxpayers) with an unknown cost?

All of this can be avoided by proposals we have put forth that accomplish everything that the tunnel does: move water from the north to the south. Our only

contention is to allow that freshwater to stay in the system as long as possible for the benefit of our farmers, the ecosystem and recreation.

In other news, we had a marathon budget hearing this week that resulted in the adoption of a fiscally responsible spending plan. I had told the County Executive from very early on I would not support his recommended plan including cuts to public safety. Fortunately, my colleagues agreed, and we kept the Sheriff and the District Attorney's proposed budgets whole. It's what the voters wanted as evidenced by the overwhelming passage of Prop. 36 and it's what our communities deserve.

It's starting to feel like summer out there, so get out and enjoy it and wear sunscreen.

As always, please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor and encourage them to <u>subscribe</u> for future newsletters or check out my Facebook page <u>here</u>.

PAT

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Delta Conveyance Project



California's water infrastructure has long been the subject of complex debates, shaped by the state's vast geography and uneven water availability. Among the most contentious, and one you have heard me speak of many times, is the Delta Conveyance Project (Project), a proposed underground tunnel designed to divert water from the Sacramento River, around the Delta, to Southern California. While framed as a necessary response to climate change and infrastructure risk, the project is a deeply flawed solution. It threatens ecosystems, bypasses sustainable alternatives and comes with an enormous, projected price tag of \$20+ billion!

As you might know, the Governor's recent May Revision to the proposed state budget included trailer bills designed to bypass current state law with the express goal to fast-track this ill-conceived, costly and destructive project. These trailer

bills would, among other things, codify the California Department of Water Resources authority to issue unlimited revenue bonds to fund the Project, to be paid for by ratepayers already struggling under the burden of high utility bills. The proposed trailer bills would also allow project proponents to more easily acquire land from Delta landowners under the guise of eminent domain and apply new requirements and limitations for those challenging the construction or operation of the Project. Clearly, these proposals are aimed at thwarting our public processes, bypassing legal requirements and disregarding the opportunity for judicial review.



I have been heartened to see widespread unity in opposition to the Governor's proposals for the Delta Conveyance Tunnel Project from leaders throughout the state, especially those who represent the Delta and the over 4 million residents who would be most directly impacted. I would like to thank the

Legislative Delta Caucus, the Delta Counties Coalition and all the statewide organizations and stakeholders who stand united against these and any future efforts to accelerate the construction of this Project. I will continue to advocate against this Project and stand in solidarity with the Delta communities to protect the health of the Delta, for the sake of our fisheries, flyways and farmers.

Understanding that a consistent, sustainable water supply is crucial for all Californians, three options have been proposed as alternatives to the construction of the Project, which I believe are proven and scalable solutions that will reduce dependence on large-scale infrastructure:

- Focused levee improvements to maintain the freshwater pathway in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
 - Also known as "Through Delta Conveyance," this approach prevents potential catastrophe by investing in the Delta, strengthening levees and improving current infrastructure to more efficiently and sustainably move water through the Delta from point A to point B;

accomplishing the same thing as spending tens of billions of dollars to go around it.

Canal improvements to reduce water loss

 Estimates suggest that, in some cases, almost a third of the water extracted from the Delta is lost to seepage and evaporation before it reaches the end user. By addressing our aging infrastructure and updating our unlined channels, we can reduce these losses and deliver more water within our existing system.

Upgrades to the current conveyance system to deliver water more efficiently

 In addition to creating more capacity and conservation, upgrading the current intake pumps, fish screens and other existing infrastructure would capture fresh water with less damaging impacts to the ecosystem.

By pursuing these less costly and less destructive alternatives and prioritizing decentralized water solutions including utilizing water recycling methods, promoting water efficiency and the increased use of groundwater storage, we can work together towards fostering regional self-sufficiency thereby reducing conflicts over our state's scarce resources. This approach makes far more sense than changing the point of diversion, which would take water from higher up in the system, inviting saltwater intrusion and threatening devastating impacts to the largest estuary in the Western United States.

The Project poses a direct threat to the fragile ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The tunnel would divert up to 6,000 cubic feet per second of freshwater, significantly reducing flows that fish reply upon for migration, is critical for nutrient distribution in the food chain, and is needed to disrupt invasive plant species and dislodge the buildup of sediment and material. Even the project's own environmental impact reports acknowledge the risk to aquatic habitats and migratory fish populations. In an era when biodiversity is already under siege, pursuing a project that further undermines critical ecosystems is both irresponsible and unsustainable.

The Delta Conveyance Project is emblematic of outdated thinking in California's water policy - it offers no new water, costs billions and jeopardizes the largest freshwater estuary in the Western U.S. It's fiscally reckless and environmentally disastrous.

With mounting environmental, legal and community opposition, California would be better served by abandoning this flawed tunnel project and instead embracing forward-looking, inclusive water strategies to ensure water security for all Californians with solutions that protect both people and our fragile Delta waterways.

Heat and Water Safety Tips

The official start of summer is just around the corner, and Sacramento County is already feeling the heat! While warm weather means more time outdoors, enjoying our region's beautiful parks, it also brings important safety concerns. Whether you're heading to the American River, hitting a trail, or staying close to home, it's essential to protect yourself, your loved ones and your pets from rising temperatures, cold river water and increased fire risk.

The American River might look inviting on a hot day, but looks can be deceiving. Even though the air is warm, the river water remains dangerously cold, and its swift currents can take even the strongest swimmers by surprise. I strongly urge all residents and visitors to use caution when spending time near or in the water.



- Wear a Life Vest: Life Looks Good On You and so does a life vest! Life vest borrowing stations are located along Sacramento's waterways for convenience and safety.
- **Kids Don't Float**: Children under 13 are required by law to wear a life vest before entering public waters (Sacramento County Ordinance 13.08.301). Be sure to bring life vests for kids or borrow one if needed.
- **Use Caution:** People of all ages and swimming abilities should be cautious around rivers and lakes. Visit the <u>Regional Parks Water Safety</u> webpage for more information.

With triple-digit temperatures so common in Sacramento County, make sure to stay cool and hydrated. Heat-related illness can affect anyone, but seniors, young children and people with health conditions are especially at risk.

Make sure you're drinking plenty of water throughout the day, even more than you think you need, and try to avoid alcohol, which can increase dehydration. If you don't have air conditioning, consider spending time in air-conditioned public spaces like libraries, shopping centers or designated cooling centers. Even just a few hours of cooling down can help your body handle the heat better.

Also make sure to check in on family, friends and neighbors who may be more vulnerable, like older adults, those who live alone or anyone without reliable access to air conditioning. A quick phone call or visit can help prevent a crisis.

And remember, the inside of a parked car can become deadly in just minutes, even if the windows are cracked. Don't forget your four-legged family members either! Never leave a person or pet unattended in a vehicle, even for a short time. On an 80-degree day, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 100 degrees in less than 10 minutes!

Always ensure your pets have plenty of fresh water, shade and a cool place to rest. Take them out for walks during the cooler morning or evening hours to avoid burning their paw pads on hot pavement. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their feet.

Lastly, fire danger is a year-round concern, but summer brings heightened risk. Open-flame fires are not allowed in Regional Parks, and barbecuing is only permitted in designated picnic areas. Smoking is limited to developed picnic areas, paved surfaces, golf courses and levee tops along the American River Parkway. If you spot smoke or signs of fire, report it immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Sacramento offers so many fun summer activities but enjoying them safely should always come first. Whether you're taking a dip in the river, heading out for a hike, or just walking your dog, observing a few smart precautions can make all the difference. Stay cool, stay safe, and look out for one another!

Out & About in District 5



Celebrating OCA's 30th Dragon Boat Festival where we honored all of OCA's past leaders and their current president, Jinky Dolar. Thank you all for your many contributions over the years!









I had the pleasure of presenting awards at the Rosemont Community Association's annual meeting on behalf of both the Association and Sacramento County. This year's Volunteers of the Year were the Brittain Family (top left) and Jill Pettifer. Volunteer Appreciation Certificates were awarded to Ippolito's Trattoria (top right), Lisa Meline, The Sandwich Spot–Rosemont, and Atonement Lutheran Church (bottom right). We also heard from an outstanding lineup of guest speakers, including Assemblymember Josh Hoover (bottom left).





Celebrating at the Hearts for Heroes Gala where Cosumnes Fire Chief Felipe Rodriguez received the 2025 Leadership Award! Left photo: Lisa Hume, me, Elk Grove Mayor Bobbi Singh-Allen, Chief Felipe Rodriguez and Elk Grove City Councilmember Rod Brewer. Right photo: The Paw Platoon, specially trained companion dogs assigned to first responders, and their Hero Handlers receiving special recognition.



Enjoying the wild side of District 5 at the Annual Walk on the Wildside event in the Sac Sewer Bufferland refuge. Top left photo: me and Sac Sewer Natural Resource Manager, Steve Scott. Top right photo: me and Dr. Andrea Willey and Roy Brewer from the Waterbird Habitat Project. Bottom left photo: Jofil Borja of the Sac County Planning Commission and his family, me, Anna Swenson from The Freshwater Trust, Bryan Young and Steve Scott from Sac Sewer.







Beginning the month-long, collaborative effort to remove the Skarry vessels from the Seven Mile Slough in the Delta. Top photo from left: me, Sheriff Jim Cooper, Sheri Pemberton from the State Lands Commission and District Attorney Thien Ho.

Upcoming Events











Saturday June 7th, 2025 Find out more at coadoptopetday.org







Sunday, June 8 11am-2pm Old Town Plaza

Join your local service agencies for a sweet meet-up event.











CAREER & RESOURCE FAIR

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025

BBQ Lunch Included Free Outdoor Event

District 56 - Veterans Memorial Park 8230 Civic Center Dr. Elk Grove, CA 95757

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Set Up 8:00 AM-9:45 AM)

Celebrating the 250th Birthday's for the Army, Navy, and the Marines





Contact Frank Goehringer 916-996-1877 frank.Goehringer.ausa@gmail.com



FAMILY DAY @SAFETYVILLE USA

Family Day @Safetyville USA is backd

- Booths with Health, Safety & Recreational Resources for families
- Safety & health giveaways
- Food & refreshments available for purchase
- Safety demonstrations













VENDOR INFO

Are you a local business looking to connect with the community? Showcase your products or services, hand out samples or giveaways, and promote your brand.



Scan for Vendor Registration

WHERE YOU GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Thursday, June 26th 10 am - 2 pm



IMPORTANT INFO

Rancho Cordova City Hall 2729 Prospect Park Drive



Wednesday, June 25th 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Optional Vendor Drop Off



And! Vendor Mixer 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm























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