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Item No. 12-1909-S1, Energy and Environment Committee

1 message

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To: adam.lid@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.labonge@lacity.org, councilmember.koretz@lacity.org
Cc: george.watland@sierraclub.org

Re: Item No. 12-1909-S1, Energy and Environment Committee

Dear Councilmembers,

Sierra Club opposes the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan tunnels. Technology and commonsense can create water savings that will help meet California's water demand without building giant tunnels to divert water away from the San Francisco Bay Delta.

This item was on the agenda last week, and our opposition to it still has not changed. The Energy and Environment Committee will not have the time to submit comments on a document that is over 37, 000 pages by July 29th.

This motion cites a cost for this project at \$14-16 billion (and a \$2.87 dollar month increase for LA ratepayers) - but the fact is there is no financing plan, no agreement on final cost- the latest estimate was between \$50- \$67 billion; there has been no independent review of alternatives such as investment in local water programs, the likelihood of significant cost increases, and the effect on thousands of local jobs, which LA needs with an unemployment rate of 7%.

California should pursue a range of strategies that together will sustainably meet water needs while protecting the environment. The state can meet its water demand sustainably and reliably by focusing investment in recycling, conservation, water efficiency and better groundwater management for both urban and agricultural users.

If we gamble \$67 billion on building the giant tunnels, there will not be enough money to invest in local solutions that would improve water security throughout the state and create local jobs through investment in smaller infrastructure projects. Sierra Club Angeles Chapter encourages a cost-benefit analysis for the City of Los Angeles.

Please see:

"Clean, Sustainable and Reliable Water Supply: Alternatives to the Giant Bay Delta Tunnels"
http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/sites/angeles.sierraclub.org/files/docs/environmental_issues/BasicFactSheetSCCPositionBDCAIts.pdf

Sincerely,

Charming Evelyn

Chair - Water Committee Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

