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## STOP the Twin Tunnels project

1 message

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Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 8:10 AM

I STRONGLY oppose the use of ANY City ratepayer and taxpayer money to finance Governor Brown's Twin Tunnels project.

Above and beyond the environmental damages the project will cause up and down the state, above and beyond already tight budgets for the City and its stakeholders, there are many fiscally prudent reasons to avoid giving Governor Brown any more LA taxpayer money for his pet project.

Based on how well the state has contained costs on its High Speed rail project, we can anticipate spiraling increases in costs – initial press reports indicated the cost of the tunnels, with interest, to be as high as \$67 billion. And that was six years ago.

At the time, an independent economic research firm found that based on a significantly lower cost estimate of \$47 billion, the tunnels would cost Los Angeles ratepayers \$7.5 billion dollars. That's \$7.5 billion too much.

While the Twin Tunnels project would not deliver any additional water to the City, Los Angeles and its stakeholders would still be on the hook for the construction and debt service costs of the Governor's plan

Instead, increasing our locally-generated water supply and fixing local infrastructure would create thousands of jobs in the City. A 2011 report estimated that water efficiency measures in Los Angeles create more jobs per million dollars invested than either motion picture/video production or housing construction: for every \$1 million invested in water efficiency-related projects, 12.6 to 16.6 jobs are created and nearly \$2 million in total sales go toward benefiting our economy.

The Mayor's Executive Directive No. 5 on Emergency Drought Response called for the City to reduce its dependence on imported potable water by 50% by 2024. The Twin Tunnels project undermines Los Angeles' water resilience, take funds away from the creation of the thousands of local jobs necessary to fulfill your mandate under the directive, and would primarily benefit special interests outside of the City, all at the expense of Los Angeles ratepayers.

The Twin Tunnels project is a bad deal for Los Angeles, particularly at a time when major investments are needed to improve the City's aging infrastructure and embody our sustainability and resilience goals.

ALL Angelenos strongly support the reduction of the City's dependence on imported water and increasing local water supply sources such as storm water recapture, replenishing groundwater aquifers, and progressive recycling practices and want ratepayer money to go to these needed investments, not wasted on a long term special interest-driven boondoggle.

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City of Los Angeles Mail - STOP the Twin Tunnels project

The agricultural interests in the Central Valley who stand to benefit do not take the same conservation approach that the City does, and use 50% MORE water than the entire City of Los Angeles on an annual basis.

LA's representatives on the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors have already committed millions of City dollars to the project – NO MORE.