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To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the barriers to be placed on Sutter, Steamboat and West False River; the modeling results in the document show that downstream of the barriers every low tide during June through October will be 0.5 to 1.5-feet lower than normal. A similar increase in water surface is expected upstream of the barriers.

Questions:

1. 1.5 feet lower than what?
2. What water elevation would you start from?
3. Where does the normal average level begin?
4. Will the normal average level be maintained?
5. What guarantee is there that the 1.5-foot amount will remain constant?
6. At what level/height is the barrier going to be placed?

If the water level of the Sacramento River goes down exponentially and the slough water height drops to an unprecedented level, we will undoubtedly have algae growth coupled with hugh Hyacinth blooms. With reduced flows the silt and sediment will build and if levee vegetation dies, the levees can erode.

Questions:

1. Have you really given any thought to the negative impact these barriers will have on the area?
2. Who will bear the brunt of the damage?
3. Is the State prepared to pay for mitigation? How much has been budgeted?
4. When the sediment and silt do build up, who will be responsible for the dredging and cost of removal?
5. Has the State budgeted for this foreseen consequence?
6. If everyone begins to irrigate their crops, have you calculated the amount of water usage there will be in a worse case scenario?
7. During this worse case scenario, it will create a **reverse flow** and bring salt water up the sloughs. Will we be drawing salt water in from Rio Vista instead of the Sacramento River for our crop irrigation?

Best in the West **STILLWATER** and **MT. DAVID** Bartletts



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Our family has been stewards of the land in the River Delta for six generations. When the sale and export of Sacramento River water affects the needed flow in the river, it will hurt more than farmers. Prior to exporting water from the river, the fish population was thriving and all the farming operations did not alter that. There will be job loss, business will cease, families up-rooted, a further decline in fish populations, and the encroaching salt water will damage the crops as well as the groundwater. Without the water, the Delta will die. Once this is allowed to happen there will be unforeseen consequences and new problems will manifest themselves; the likes of which we have never encountered. With reduced level flows in the Sacramento River:

Questions:

1. Can you assure us that the current status of integrity for the levee systems will survive?
2. The river pumps we have utilized for years cannot work effectively or efficiently or at all if the river levels are decreased. Will the DWR help us with expenses to extend suction pipes?
3. Will the DWR help to bear the extra costs of electricity when the pumps cannot suction the needed gallons per minute because drawing water with excessive weeds or plant growth or silt is a drain on the pump?
4. When the water quality diminishes because we are exporting and selling the water, which belongs to those locally, who will be monitoring the encroachment of salt?
5. When salt water becomes excessive, will farmers be advised on an hourly basis as to when they should shut down their pumps so they don't irrigate with salt water and destroy their orchards and ruin their crops?
6. What will the DRW do for the fish when there is not enough flow to keep out the salt water?
7. What are the back-up mitigation plans for the devastating end result of exporting water?
8. How will you fix the problem when the salt manifests itself and leaches into the ground water causing widespread contamination?
9. Who will pay for lost crops, lost jobs, lost farms and loss of quality water?
10. How will you keep the silt and sediment out of the river channel and out of the pumps?

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11. Will the state provide emergency pressure and valve pumps to all the individuals with registered diversion points when water levels are too low for farmers to pump water?

12. How much does the state receive in revenue for an acre foot of water it sells?

13. Has any money been budgeted for removal of the barriers?

We have so many more questions, but feel we will never have them addressed.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Elliot

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