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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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June 22, 2023

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President Pro-Tempore
California State Senate

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly

The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly

The Honorable Josh Becker, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
California State Senate

The Honorable Steve Bennett, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3
California State Assembly

The Honorable Dave Min, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
California State Senate

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks, & Wildlife Committee
California State Assembly

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
California State Senate

The Honorable Luz Rivas, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
California State Assembly

RE: Opposition to Governor's Infrastructure Budget Trailer Bills to Advance Controversial Delta Tunnel Project

Dear President Pro-Tempore Atkins, Speaker Rendon, Senator Skinner, Senator Becker, Senator Min, Assemblymember Ting, Assemblymember Bennett, and Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in strong opposition of the Administration's inclusion of major changes in law that would advance the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel) in the Infrastructure Package portion of the Trailer Bills. While we agree with the Administration that reform is necessary, CEQA was intended to give voice to the voiceless. With it, California has been able to help cut climate pollution, reduce air and water pollution, protect open space, wildlife habitats and farmlands – benefits that affect all of us, including the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Here in Solano County we take particular concern with Trailer Bill provisions that would expedite the controversial Delta Tunnel project – a structure that would physically span across three Delta Counties, and by proxy, would be felt throughout Solano County and the San Francisco Bay. Additionally, the bill does not allow for adequate time to vet the proposed bill language, as CEQA demands the impacts of projects and their alternatives be considered fully. If not adequately studied, we have major concerns about the untold and unidentified impacts on air-quality, water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, impacts on disadvantaged communities and the potential for unimaginable devastation to California's sensitive Bay Delta ecosystems.

As you know, the San Francisco Bay Delta is largest estuary on the west coasts of North and South America. The Delta includes a diversity of fresh water, brackish water, and saltwater aquatic habitats – home to the delta smelt, steelhead, and Chinook salmon among many others. Two-thirds of

Solano County, CA

June 16, 2023

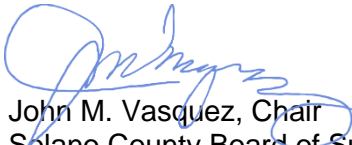
Page 2

California's salmon pass through these waters, and at least half of the state's Pacific Flyway migratory water birds rely on the region's wetlands. As it has been expressed by the Delta Counties Coalition, the Delta Tunnel should not be subject to the CEQA Judicial Streamlining portion of the package – not only because of the size and scope of this project relative to previous exempted projects – but also because of its uniquely sensitive location. If anything, we believe this project should be subject to far more heightened standards, certainly not less.

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, we join our Delta Counties Coalition colleagues in requesting the Legislature take additional time to review the proposed changes and remove this from the Trailer Bills and encourage a more holistic approach to CEQA reform that is independent of the budget process. Additionally, we urge the Legislature and its staff to carefully examine project alternatives that would meet the same intended goals of providing water to our agricultural and urban communities south of the Delta, and not at the expense of our Delta communities here in Solano County, and the Counties of the Delta Counties Coalition.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me direct if you have any questions at JM Vasquez@SolanoCounty.com and (707) 784-6129.

Sincerely,



John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable Bill Dodd, Senator
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Paragon Government Relations, Washington D.C.
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Sacramento, CA