



UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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May 8, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am very pleased by the Department of Water Resources' formal withdrawal of permitting applications for the Twin Tunnels (WaterFix Project), following your April 29 executive order. As your Administration begins the renewed environmental review and planning process for a smaller, single conveyance project, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to consider an alternative route along the westside of the Delta. Enclosed is my "Little Sip, Big Gulp: A Water Plan for All of California," detailing the westside proposal.

A westside route utilizing the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel and then continuing southward to the Tracy pumps, using existing conveyance wherever possible, is the best way to minimize impacts on productive agricultural land, flood risk, and the environment. Indeed, a westside route for a single, right-sized pipeline at no more than 3,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) design capacity is the *only* project that can earn the support of Delta communities and landowners, including me.

The Sacramento Ship Channel ends 25 miles south near Rio Vista, where a pressurized pipeline spanning a mere 12 miles beneath the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers could deliver water along the eastside of the Old River channel leading to the Tracy pumps. The westside, single conveyance proposal was originally developed with support from environmental groups and Delta water users when I served in state government during the early 1990s. Now nearly three decades later, the westside proposal has withstood the test of time and may finally come into its own with your support.

Proponents of the now-defunct Twin Tunnels proposal failed to even consider a westside route, instead spending more than \$280 million in pursuit of a multibillion-dollar boondoggle that will never be built. This money could have instead funded much-needed upgrades and repairs to Delta levees, which must be maintained to provide flood protection and support continued water conveyance southward.

Again, I urge you to give all due consideration to a westside route for the smaller, single conveyance project. I stand ready to work with you to advance a westside route that meets our state's future water needs and safeguards the Delta. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Garamendi".

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

CC: Director Karla Nemeth, California Department of Water Resources