

Three page MCWRA letter presented to the DSC and staff and included in the agenda packet.

John Kingsbury, Executive Director – Presentation

The president of the United States wants to “Drain the Swamp”. It seems to me that California wants to drain the Sierra Nevada. While I support the President’s “Draining the Swamp”, I do not support and am opposed to California “Draining the Sierra”.

Draining the Sierra will defeat the objective of the Council to achieve the Co-Equal goals.

To achieve the Co-Equal goals, there needs to be a fundamental change in the way water is managed and water systems are operated in the Delta, its watershed, and all of California.

Critically important to the Delta, and really all of California, is its watershed and the communities that live, work and recreate in the watershed. We are all knitted together by our environment.

These rural watershed communities are the stewards of the source of water for the Delta. Though a critical component to the survival of the Delta, rarely are these rural watershed communities recognized for significance to the Delta and California.

My letter outlines the need for a fundamental change in the way water is managed and water systems are operated in the Delta, its watershed, and all of California.

1. We need to fix the “drivers” or stressors in the Delta as called out by the Independent Science Board, and not just add more flow.
2. We need to fix the Delta Secondary Zone, the Sierra Nevada to sequester water for later use and to prevent catastrophic fires that harm the environment and reduce natural water storage.
3. Consider the additional storage options as I have listed in the letter.
4. And, let’s not forget the flawed regulatory policies

Mountain Counties attended the meeting when the Council adopted the Delta Plan in 2013 and recommended the Council adopt the Plan. While it was not perfect, we felt it was time to adopt the Plan and work together on implementation of that Plan.

And, that you are doing.

Again, thank you for this opportunity and please consider my comments and those presented in the letter.