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Wednesday, July 8, 2015 Coalition Press Teleconference

Good morning. I want to talk about three undeniable facts--

FIRST,

The failure of the BDCP as well as the new California Water Fix Drafts to include so much as one alternative *increasing* SF Bay Delta flows as called for by the EPA last August and the Environmental Water Caucus (EWC) for several years is an *undeniable fact*. The way to increase flows is to take less water out. That means reduce, not increase, exports.

More than four years ago the National Academy of Sciences saw what the BDCP agencies were up to and declared in reviewing the draft BDCP that: “choosing the alternative project before evaluating alternative ways to reach a preferred outcome would be post hoc rationalization— in other words, putting the cart before the horse. Scientific reasons for not considering alternative actions are not presented in the plan.” (National Academy of Sciences, Report in Brief at p. 2, May 5, 2011).

More than three years ago The Environmental Water Caucus (EWC) (a coalition of over 30 organizations including Friends of the River) pointed out to the State

The absence of a full range of alternatives, including an alternative which would reduce exports from the Delta. (April 16, 2012, letter, p. 2).

All these alternatives are just the same project dressed in different outfits.

This bad faith suppression of alternatives reducing exports has always been calculated to stack the deck in favor of the Water Tunnels and against reducing exports since no other alternatives are presented to the public for consideration.

Now, the governor has told people who don't want the Tunnels, to shut up. The only people he wants talking are himself, his appointees, and the consultants raking in enormous sums of money to spin the Tunnels to a wary public.

SECOND,

After the Drafts were released in December of 2013 for public review, the BDCP website was closed to the posting of comments. *That is an undeniable fact shown by simply going to the website.* The BDCP agencies have tried to keep the public in the dark about alternatives and facts submitted by those who are independent.

This hiding contrary information and the truth extends to comments by other public agencies

We have obtained copies of the BDCP comments by organizations and public agencies under the Freedom of Information Act and posted them at www.friendsoftheriver.org/bdcpcomments regardless of whether the particular comments oppose or favor the Water Tunnels. That is the American way.

The deliberate suppression of alternatives reducing exports, coupled with the suppression of independent comments from the BDCP and Water Fix websites, *is calculated to deceive the public* about the adverse environmental effects and enormous costs of the Water Tunnels.

THIRD

Now, the BDCP agencies have taken a full year to prepare 8,000 more Water Fix pages to add to the 40,000 pages of Tunnels advocacy they issued in December of 2013. They are only giving the public 45 days to comment on what they have done. When you add together their failure to ever put forth even one alternative increasing Delta flows, their hiding comments giving the other side of the story from the public, and now their ridiculous short comment period, you can get the picture. They are engaged in a bad faith rush to cram a costly bad project down the throats of California taxpayers and ratepayers.

Folks, apply your common sense and life experience. The special interests trying to take the water and their political minions are not stupid. They have reasons to hide alternatives and contrary information. They are afraid of the truth—that is why all tricksters in all scams try to hide the truth and rush their target victims. The Water Fix Tunnels are a huge, expensive, damaging boondoggle.

THANK YOU

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