



OFFICE OF THE
CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

VICE MAYOR
LAUREN R. HAMMOND

COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT FIVE

September 11, 2009

Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Karen Bass
Assembly Speaker
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO DELTA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BILLS

Dear President Pro Tempore Steinberg and Speaker Bass:

As noted in previous communications with your offices, the City continues to support a process to fairly and equitably restore the Delta and improve statewide water reliability. However, the City of Sacramento opposes the Delta package as currently drafted and believes there are simply too many unresolved issues and amendments required for the Legislature to vote on the package today.

The current package of bills raise the possibility that water may be reallocated from upstream diverters to mitigate Delta impacts, and fees may be imposed to pay for solutions to Delta problems, without any demonstration that upstream diverters have caused such impacts or problems, and with no assurance that such reallocations or fees, if imposed, will be proportional to upstream diverters' demonstrated contribution to the problems being addressed.

This would result in an unjustified and uncompensated reallocation of water supplies and the diminishment of upstream diverters' senior water rights, apparently being driven by the desire to improve conditions in the Delta without impacting export water supplies, in a manner that is not consistent with the policy of the area of origin laws that allowed the export projects to be built and at the expense of upstream rate payers, for the benefit of others.

The bills also do not provide adequate assurances that programs and facilities implemented or constructed in the Delta will not result in the redirection of unmitigated, significant adverse impacts to upstream areas.

The City remains committed to working cooperatively on a statewide water supply solution that works for all regions of the state.

Very truly yours,


LAUREN HAMMOND
Vice Mayor