

March 7, 2017
Special Legislative Comm.

- Public Comment
Agenda Item #1

Salinas Valley Water Coalition



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Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Legislative Committee
168 W. Alisal St.
Salinas, Ca 93901

7 March, 2017

Re: Agenda Item #1

Dear Committee Members;

This letter is sent on behalf of the Salinas Valley Water Coalition (SVWC) regarding Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) request to your Committee. The MCWRA is asking for assistance in seeking a legislative solution to the white bass component of the Agency's Interlake Tunnel and Spillway Modification Project (Project).

The staff report states the Agency is seeking a legislative remedy because their efforts to identify and gain approval of a viable solution to date with California Department of Fish and Wildlife have been unsuccessful, which could jeopardize the 'project' timeline.

The SVWC believes the Agency's request is premature for the following reasons:

1. Currently there is no approved 'project', only a proposed project. We all know that the ultimate project that is approved is often very different than that initially proposed.
2. There is the potential to prejudice the environmental review process for the proposed 'project'; a process that hasn't begun, let alone completed.
3. The critical modeling for the proposed 'project' hasn't begun, yet alone completed.

We understand the Agency's concern about delays in the proposed project's timeline, but it is important that we have completed environmental review and modeling of the proposed project so the decision-makers and the public can fully understand the potential benefits and associated environmental impacts of the proposed project. The proposed legislative solution appears to pre-empt this process and we ask that any potential legislative solution be delayed until the CEQA process and modeling are completed.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Nancy Isakson

Nancy Isakson, President
Salinas Valley Water Coalition