



## PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol

### CALIFORNIANS VOICE OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNOR'S DELTA TUNNELS PROJECT

Two weeks ago, Governor Brown evoked media uproar when he unveiled his plans to construct a pair of huge underground water tunnels to convey water from the Sacramento River to the Santa Clara Valley, Central Valley agribusiness and southern California. Since then, the overwhelming consensus has been unfavorable toward the budget busting project estimated to cost anywhere from \$20-\$50 billion. Throughout the state, opposition to the Governor's water project is making headlines as Californians ask why their already-increasing water rates should skyrocket for this project that won't provide regional water self-sufficiency.

Here's what Californians leading media outlets have to say:

#### Statewide

[Calif. unveils hot-button, \\$24B water tunnel plan](#) (Associated Press)

[California Water Wars: Will Thirsty Interests Divert More Water?](#) (PBS)

#### Northern California

[Twin-tunnel Delta plan concerns Placer water officials: Water rights questions in plan announced by Gov. Jerry Brown and top federal official](#) (Auburn Journal)

[PERIPHERAL TUNNEL: Governor announces twin tunnel plan; locals fear the worst for Trinity waters](#) (The Trinity Journal)

#### Bay Area

[Combatants in New CA Water War Dig In: Opponents call Governor's Delta plan "plumbing before policy" and "a wink and a promise"](#) (KQED News)

[Delta tunnels would mean higher prices: State water plan Customers of 3 Bay Area agencies on the hook for construction costs](#) (San Francisco Chronicle)

[Delta tunnels would mean higher prices](#) (San Francisco Chronicle)

[Why is governor picking a water fight?](#) (San Francisco Chronicle)

[Gov. Jerry Brown fires first shot in new water war](#) (San Jose, Mercury News)

## **Delta Region**

[Brown's tunnel vision: It's up to opponents to put a decisive end to governor's blatant Delta water grab](#) (Stockton, The Record)

[Solano County leaders against Delta tunnel plan](#) (The Reporter, Vacaville)

[Peripheral Canal: A bad idea in the 1980s; a bad idea today](#) (Woodland Daily Democrat)

[Eclectic Delta coalition is set to fight proposal for 'peripheral tunnels'](#) (Sacramento Bee)

## **Central Valley**

[Engineer: Fix Deltas levees, don't build peripheral tunnels](#) (Central Valley Business Times)

## **Central Coast**

[Governor's State Water Proposal Draws Local Criticism: Average Water Bill for South Coast Water Consumers Could Increase](#) (Santa Barbara Independent)

## **Southern California**

[Plumbing before policy in Delta decision](#) (Santa Clarita Valley, The Signal)

[Jerry Brown's water plan is more than policy: In unveiling the latest version of the Peripheral Canal, the California governor is trying to finish what his father, Gov. Pat Brown, had started.](#) (Los Angeles Times)

[Tunnel vision may wreck Delta plan: State needs to be on same page on water use](#) (Los Angeles Daily News)

[\\$14B water project faces long haul: San Diego officials wary of cost for dual tunnels in Sacramento delta](#) (San Diego Union-Tribune)

## **CEQA ALREADY UNDER THREAT AS LEGISLATIVE SESSION GETS UNDERWAY?**

It didn't take long for the dialogue about CEQA reform to heat up as the Legislature reconvened from its summer recess for the final month of the session. Just a few days after returning from their hiatus, the halls of the Legislature are full of rumors and innuendo – the commerce of the Capitol - about a major CEQA play. While PCL and others are still trying to sort out fact from fiction and uncover the details about what's in store, it appears CEQA is in for another bumpy ride over the last month of the session. We hope our elected officials took the [Sacramento Bee](#) to heart when they recently urged the Legislature to make sure any amendments to CEQA are publicly and thoroughly vetted. Look to PCL to keep you informed of all the latest developments around CEQA.

## **COASTAL CONSERVANCY RELEASES FUNDS FOR SAN CLEMENTE**

## **DAM REMOVAL**

### ***Project Set to Break Ground in Fall 2012***

Last week, the [California State Coastal Conservancy](#) voted to authorize a grant award of up to \$32 million of public funding to [California American Water](#) (CAW) for implementation of the [San Clemente Dam Removal Project](#) in Monterey County. This important vote brings the long-awaited plan for dam removal closer to fruition for the public/private partnership between the state and the water company.

With the funds approved, CAW plans to break ground by the end of September to remove the 106-foot-high concrete-arch San Clemente Dam. The \$83 million project will help restore to health the Carmel River, which once supported a thriving steelhead run, and will help safeguard downstream communities along California's central coast that are currently at risk if the dam fails. As part of the partnership agreement, CAW will also donate over 900 acres of land adjacent to the Ventana Wilderness area in the Carmel Valley.

The project will provide tremendous environmental benefits, including removal of a significant barrier to the migration of steelhead trout to upstream spawning areas, as well as protection of critical wildlife habitat for species like the federally threatened California red-legged frog. The plan to demolish the aging dam also has support from the community as the best response to resolve earthquake safety issues determined by the state's [Division of Safety of Dams](#).

The largest ever dam removal project in California is moving forward because of an innovative public-private partnership between CAW and the State Coastal Conservancy, with the support of the [National Marine Fisheries Service](#) and more than two dozen regional, state and national conservation groups, elected officials and regulatory partners. The PCL Foundation has played a critical role in helping foster this partnership between local, state and federal agencies, environmental groups and businesses since the project's inception.

"Hopefully, taking down the San Clemente Dam is just the first of many major removals throughout the state that will begin the process of restoring our rivers and streams back to health," noted Bruce Reznik, Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League Foundation.

## **COMINGS AND GOINGS ON THE PCL BOARD**

The Planning and Conservation League is pleased to announce the addition of Denny Zane to the organization's Board of Directors. Denny Zane, Executive Director of [Move LA](#), brings with him more than 40 years of experience in the environmental non-profit world.

Denny has previously served on the Santa Monica City Council, including one term as mayor, during which time he initiated the revitalization of the [Third Street](#)

[Promenade](#). He wrote much of the land use policy for Santa Monica's downtown, emphasizing pedestrian amenities, mixed-use development, and effective transit access — before these policies became known as "smart growth." Denny was also executive director of the [Coalition for Clean Air](#), and began his career by founding [Santa Monicans for Renters Rights](#) in the late '70s. He currently heads Move LA, an organization that he created in 2007 to bring together business, labor and environmental leaders and organizations with the goal of raising significant new funding for LA County's transit system.

"Denny brings remarkable environmental knowledge to PCL," noted Chairman David Mogavero. "He has committed a life-time of work to environmental causes and will help us build stronger relationships with within the southern California community."

While welcoming Denny to the PCL family, we are sorry to lose two directors who recently retired from the Board - Joe Edmiston and Joan Clayburgh.

Joe Edmiston, the only Executive Director in the 30-plus year history of the [Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy](#), which purchases, preserves, and enhances treasured pieces of Southern California to form a system of publically-accessible urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats. During his tenure, Joe has "brokered, threatened, cajoled, lobbied, networked, orchestrated, and generally out planned, outthought, and outfought anyone who has stood in the way of the acquisition, restoration, and opening to the public of 55,000 [now 69,000] acres of once-private land", according to Lewis Macadams's 2005 [Los Angeles Magazine piece](#). The article goes to say, "Joe Edmiston might be the most powerful unelected official in Los Angeles".

For the past decade, Joan Clayburgh has been the Executive Director of the [Sierra Nevada Alliance](#), which protects and restores Sierra land, water, wildlife and communities by working in conjunction with over 80 member groups throughout the 400 mile long Sierra Nevada region. Joan has over 20 years of experience in non-profit management and in 2012 was presented the Carl Bard Environmental Advocacy Award at the 21st California Water Policy Conference. Joan has also worked for the [Sierra Club](#), Californians for Pesticide Reform, Pesticide Watch, and [CALPIRG](#).

"Joe and Joan brought incredible conservation and non-profit understanding to the PCL Board of Directors," noted Mogavero. "We owe them heartfelt thanks for all their time and effort on our behalf through the years. While they will be missed on the PCL Board, their important work safeguarding California's natural resources and communities continues."

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