

Stockton Record

*November 29, 2011*

Opposition to a new Bay-Delta planning document continues to mount.

Four California lawmakers representing San Joaquin County are urging state and federal water officials to reverse support for a new agreement.

In a letter to the U.S. Department of the Interior and the state Natural Resources Agency, 17 legislators, including the four whose districts cover the county, complained about the "undue influence granted to State and Federal export water agencies."

A month ago, five Northern California members of the House of Representatives, including Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, wrote a similar letter complaining about the deal granting "unprecedented influence" to water exporters.

On Nov. 16, a letter from 242 environmental organizations, American Indian tribes, recreational fishing groups, commercial angling operations and outdoor businesses also urged the state and federal agencies to abandon the planning agreement.

The most recent letter was signed by state Sen. Lois Wolk, D-Davis, and Assembly members Alyson Huber, D-El Dorado Hills; Joan Buchanan, D-Alamo; and Bill Berryhill, R-Ceres, and 13 others from Northern California.

The letter also deals with other concerns:

- failure to be transparent while creating the new Bay Delta Conservation Plan;
- limited alternatives;
- scientific "inadequacy";
- lack of flow criteria for the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta;
- lack of cost/benefit analysis.

Noting the earlier correspondence calling on U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to retract his agency's approval of the agreement, the new letter urges "the same, and for the state, in parallel, to retract the Department of Water Resources' 'approval.' "