California Water Plan Advisory Committee: (and interested others).

1. DELTA - Main concerns - (From an interested observer for 50 yrs. +or-).

   A. Lack of fresh water input.
   Of the seven major tributaries that fed the delta for centuries, only two major rivers remain, the Sacramento and American rivers.
   B. This has allowed the saline content of the water in and around the Stockton and Tracy areas to rise almost to unusable amounts, especially when the huge pumps feeding the Delta Mendota and California Aqueducts are in use. This affects the outflow almost to reversing the flow in some ares during high tide periods.
   C. The San Joaquin river became a sewer when its entire head waters were sent South and East of Bakersfield after the Friant Kern dam was built in the thirties. From Fresno Northward, selenium and farm waste contaminants collected with very little flushing action to dilute it to harmless levels.
   D. The water tables in and around the Madera and Merced areas went from twentyfive feet +or- to over one hundred and fifty feet in a very short time and is still receding.

2. SUBSIDENCE-
   A. For over one hundred years the entire main sections of the Delta has been sinking at the rate of one and one half to two inches per year.
   B. Much farming area is fourteen to fifteen feet below the high tide levels during the winter months.
   C. Most of the present levee systems has reached the shear capacity of the underlying soil and adding more earth only increases the sinking rate.
   D. Nature will eventually reclaim much of the Delta she has loaned us as she did in Mississippi and other areas in spite of experts best efforts. To let this happen by the intrusion of salt water from the San Francisco Bay area in place of the fresh water flows of prior untold years would be tragic for future generations to come.
   E. Action should be started to slow this eventuality to prevent to rapid of an economic loss to those involved.
   F. To purchase areas such as Statten island and like areas for natural wild life and game would appear foolish when nature will do this eventually at no cost to the tax payers.(One mans opinion).

3. SILTING-

A. The slowing of normal flows in various areas over the years by diversion has altered the depth of waters drastically, from the upper San Joaquin valley, the San Francisco Bay and out beyond the Golden Gate, where the potato patch was formed over many years.

B. Nine to eleven knot tides that for years flowed past Alcatraz and out to sea are gone and channels that were deep enough for the large ocean going ships must be dredged for access in many areas. Silt is no longer carried out and over the continental shelf as it was for untold years.

C. Up the San Joaquin river, where Tugs, Barges and even Ferries could go as far as Fresno are long gone also and in many areas clear to the Tracy area you can walk across the river and not get your knees wet. Is it any wonder that areas around MossDale, flood during winter run offs. The silted channels can no longer carry the water they once did and the runoff has no where to go but out.

4. PROBLEMS-

All of these and others not mentioned are so entertwined, they can not be separated, yet in most studies only small parts are addressed and we see band aid actions here and there such as the weirs to raise water levels for farm pumps in the Tracy area. Dredging around the Delta Mendota pumping intake and so on and on.

5. FLOWS-

It appears, unless we find away to restart at least one third of the natural flows, (averaged over one hundred and fifty years +or-) of the most altered rivers and streams in the next five or ten years, and over forty or fifty years bring them back to two thirds of their natural flow, we will certainly lose the Delta as we once knew it.

Laws should be passed that allow no more than one third of the natural flow of any river or stream shall be diverted.

No diversion pumping may exceed an amount that reverses the natural flow of any river or stream.

6. FARMING-

Allow farming and farm structures only, (no dwellings) in areas of subsidence. In marginal areas, where grades are raised above the one hundred year flood plain a case by case could be exempted.

7. CITYS-

Help Citys to study desalinization to help release more water for agriculture usage. Many new studies are available that offer great promise on this.

8. CONCLUSION-

I hope that people reading this writing will understand that it comes not from an Engineer with half the alphabet behind his name, only an interested observer who loves the Delta and can not guarantee the complete accuracy of all statements.

I highly recommend the "Cadillac Desert Series" as seen on PBS, and based on Marc Reisner's book of the same name.

I have saved many articles over the years from the "stockton Record", " National Geographic", "Geo","ENR", and other publications.

I sincerely hope this will help stimulate the thinking of those studying this extremely complex problem.

Sincerely-

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