



December 19, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95818

RE: Reject Calls to Abandon Public Interest and Environmental Protection in the Delta

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of Sierra Club California and our more than half a million members and supporters statewide, I urge you to reject calls to abandon your laudable plans to stand up to the Trump administration on its disastrous proposals for the San Francisco Bay-Delta.

According to today's news reports, Westlands Water District, for whom the current Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, recently worked as a lobbyist, has once again threatened to walk out of the voluntary agreement negotiations unless you take actions that will risk the state's environmental health. Specifically, the Sacramento Bee reported that Westlands is demanding that you promise not to legally challenge the Trump administration's "plan to pump more water to farmers from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the fragile estuary on Sacramento's doorstep."

Additionally, Senator Dianne Feinstein, in a letter dated today, has also pressed you to coordinate with Bernhardt, rather than follow through on your recent pledge to sue Trump over the pumping plan.

Governor Newsom, as one who has been involved in the Sacramento debates about California's environment for nearly two decades, I can assure you that those calling for you to stand down are leading you astray. They have been working in concert for years to weaken endangered species and public health protections affecting the Delta and water flows. We need you now to follow through and use every available legal option to protect California's fragile and increasingly challenged ecosystem, and to resist federal overreach in Trump's effort to destroy environmental protections.

When you vetoed SB 1, you said "California is a leader in the fight for resource, environmental, and worker protections. Since 2017, the federal government has repeatedly tried to override and invalidate those protections, and each time, the state has aggressively countered—taking immediate legal action and deploying every tool at the state's disposal to safeguard our natural resources, environmental protections and workers. No other state has fought harder to defeat Trump's environmental policies, and that will continue to be the case."

We need you to fight again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn Phillips
Director

Cc: Secretaries Wade Crowfoot and Jared Blumenfeld