

Preserving the Delta & Our Water: What Newspapers Are Saying



"A quarter century after it was soundly defeated by California voters, the Peripheral Canal is making a comeback. This time around it has the support of some environmentalists as well as the backing of the respected Public Policy Institute of California..."

It is becoming increasingly clear that the only way to assure long-term adequate supplies of fresh water for much of the state is to send it around the Delta. A canal would be the least expensive and most reliable method of delivering water where it is needed. Another major benefit, which the PPIC study concluded, is that a Peripheral Canal would have a better chance of protecting fish than the current water pumping, which kills many of them...Some form of the Peripheral Canal will be needed in California's future and should be seriously considered now."

"Canal is state's future"

Editorial, **Contra Costa Times and Oakland Tribune**, July 29, 2008

"California faces a stark choice between changing how it manages the troubled Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and losing the state's primary water supply. The latter option is expensively unrealistic, which gives the state good reason to reconsider an old idea: building a canal to take water around the delta...Water policy has a history of bitter political battles. But the state cannot dally while its water supply collapses. The stakes are too high for anything but prompt action."

"Delta Rx"

Editorial, **Riverside Press-Enterprise**, July 22, 2008

"The Delta is the hub of the state's water system, supplying water to two out of three Californians and irrigating much of the state's farmland. Santa Clara County gets half its water supply from the estuary...The state should assess a so-called "dual conveyance" system for Delta water, as the task force suggested. Besides relying on the flow in the Delta itself, it would create a canal to divert water for population centers and farms before it enters the Delta. That canal, along with some reconfiguring of the Delta itself, could reduce the environmental impact of water exports."

"California Must Act to Rescue a Delta In Severe Distress "

Editorial, **San Jose Mercury News**, January 14, 2008

"A new research report attests that a peripheral canal, proposed a quarter-century ago by former state Sen. Ruben Ayala of Chino, is the best way to avert potential environmental and water-supply disasters in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta..."

Considering the danger of earthquake-caused collapse of the old earthen levees around the delta - which would disastrously mingle saltwater with the delta's fresh water and leave much of the state without potable water - there's little question that a canal is the way to secure the state's water lifeline."

"Delta Canal is Best Option "

Editorial, **Torrance Daily Breeze**, August 3, 2008

“Call it what you want — a through-Delta facility, a conveyance, the Peripheral Canal — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called it right in Bakersfield last week, saying that it is long overdue.”

“Governor Calls it Right”

Editorial, **Bakersfield Californian**, July 25, 2007

“In water, the core problem is indecision by government, an inability to make huge, difficult decisions about managing a Delta estuary facing multiple threats. The Delta ecosystem is an increasingly complex stew of invasive species, toxic pesticides, unstable levees and rising sea levels. Meanwhile at the pumps, run by the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project, operators have tried to adjust the pumping, sometimes pumping less, sometimes diverting record supplies. The adjustments amount to tinkering with a plumbing regime that isn’t sustainable.”

“Delta’s silent pumps signal the need for change. Much is wrong in this essential resource, and the tiny Delta smelt are not to blame.”

Editorial, **Sacramento Bee**, June 3, 2007

“The peripheral canal idea has resurfaced a couple of times since, most recently in a report by the Public Policy Institute of California that was released earlier this month. And upon looking at the report’s supporting data on the state of the delta, the canal idea shouldn’t be rejected out of hand. The institute paints a grim picture of the delta and states flatly the current situation simply cannot be maintained...It’s essential they come up with a bold plan that secures the water delivery system and revives the delta ecosystem. And it’s essential that we make it happen, even if it isn’t politically palatable to us all.”

“Bold Changes Needed in Delta”

Editorial, **Chico Enterprise Record**, February 20, 2007

“Today, thanks to new research, we know that building a canal might not be a bad thing for the delta’s ecosystem — especially if it’s accompanied by statewide conservation and mitigation efforts. A peripheral canal might stabilize the delta and help restore its fragile environment, while also protecting a reasonable volume of exports to Southern California and the other parts of the state that rely on delta water.

For that to work, Northern California must abandon its reflexive opposition to the canal. Maintaining the status quo — a strategy the governor says he will also evaluate — probably is not a realistic option. If climate change or a natural disaster were to level the delta and contaminate the water supply, a less-optimal, slapdash fix might worsen the situation.”

“Working Together for the Delta”

Editorial, **Los Angeles Times**, March 3, 2008

“Time is running short to fix the delta as an ecosystem for wildlife and a source of water for human activity. The report of the governor’s Delta Vision team should be out soon. Besides reconstructing levees to protect neighborhoods from flooding, the governor has already proposed a canal around the delta’s periphery, which would have far less impact on the delta but still distribute water to 25 million of California’s homes, offices and farms.”

“Out of Balance”

Editorial, **San Diego Union Tribune**, September 5, 2007