

A Fix or a Farce? – Part 3

The writer had already concluded that the California Water Fix is a farce (see links at the foot of the home page of <http://www.fixcawater.com/>), but now the official State web site has been outdone by another site <http://watersecurityca.com/> that includes a scary 30 seconds video that is also running on TV as a paid advertisement in support of The Fix. This site and the advertisement are the product of a weird coalition of labor, business and Jerry Meral. It should then come as no surprise that it is loose with the facts. The video starts by saying “California’s water infrastructure, aging, fragile, vulnerable to the next earthquake” and then claims that The Fix will do three things:

1. **Replace dirt levees with a modern water pipeline.** Whoever wrote this is as dumb as dirt! It’s tunnels, not a pipeline, and the tunnels do not replace the levee system which is needed for other reasons, including through-Delta water conveyance which will continue under The Fix.
2. **Upgrade old infrastructure to withstand earthquakes.** Granted, there is a need to do this, but as Restore the Delta and others have pointed out, the greatest needs are not in the Delta but along the system of canals, pump stations and tunnels that take water South and cross active fault lines. There is nothing about that in The Fix.
3. **Restore natural river flows and support wildlife.** This is complete nonsense. The Fix will only makes river flows worse by making water disappear from the environment in the North Delta.

The web site then has the gall to say about The Fix: “It is the only viable plan supported by leading scientists, water agencies, engineers, and other experts. Getting to this point has been difficult. It has taken considerable time, planning, public comment and input.”

The truth is that The Fix’s predecessor, the BDCP, was panned by every scientific panel that ever reviewed it and the Federal EPA. That is what has forced the reboot. A million man hours is worthless unless it is competently and honestly directed. The Governor has been poorly advised on all this, but it is time for him to take his fingers out of his ears and actually listen to reasonable criticisms and input from outside his inner circle.

For a video version go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lAVrpHMGlyw> and for some information on a better alternative go to <http://fixcawater.com>.