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Update on the California Water Fix March 2016

Basically The Fix is dead in the water although the Governor and his allies have not yet woken up to that. These allies are a strange coalition of labor, who mistakenly believe that The Fix will generate jobs, and San Joaquin Valley farmers and Southern California business interests, who lean Republican on other issues but want government help when it benefits them.

Until recently that strange coalition had included Silicon Valley business interests but that has been undercut by the board of the Santa Clara Valley Water District which has fired, or caused to resign, the former general manager Beau Goldie, for amongst other things, refusing to consider an intertie with the Contra Costa Water District because it would undercut the District's support for The Fix. Now such an intertie is being considered.

http://www.mercurynews.com/drought/ci_28925891/california-drought-santa-clara-valley-water-district-board

The prospects of The Fix being paid for by the water districts that take water from the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project, which was always uncertain, has also taken a hit with the Westlands Water District and their general manager being fined by the SEC for doing a "little Enron accounting" in connection with the bond issues used to finance the studies for The Fix.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article65065707.html>

Meanwhile whoever staffs The Fix these days is trying to respond to all the comments submitted on the original and re-circulated EIR/EIS. This is an impossible task because at least some of the commenters are aware of the fact that many of the basic calculations used to justify The Fix are out-of-date and erroneous. If the powers-that-be decide to proceed and certify the EIR/EIS, that will provoke slam dunk lawsuits that will force a do-over and further years of delay. Not to mention the impossibility of winning the necessary approvals from the Corps of Engineers and the Federal EPA, since The Fix improves export water quality at the expense of West Delta water quality. And there is a tortuous quasi-legal hearing before the State Water Board on changing the point of diversion. The fix might well be in on that one since the members of the board are appointed by the Governor, but the process still might outlive the Governor.

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