



For Immediate Release  
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## **Sierra Club California Condemns Santa Clara Valley Water District Vote to Fund the Delta Twin Tunnels Project**

SAN JOSE—The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) has voted 4 to 3 in support of the Brown Administration’s plan to build two environmentally damaging tunnels through the San Francisco Bay Delta.

On October 17, 2017, SCVWD voted to reject the twin tunnels proposal. Now, just a few weeks after the Metropolitan Water District voted to fund the two tunnels, SCVWD suddenly decided to revisit their vote and consider participating in the Delta twin tunnels project and devoting \$650 million dollars to the tunnels’ construction.

Today’s vote was originally scheduled to take place at a special board meeting last week. During that meeting, local residents packed the meeting room to passionately urge the SCVWD Board of Directors to say no to the costly giant tunnels gamble. They highlighted the negative environmental costs and limited water security. After five hours of discussion, SCVWD decided to postpone the vote until May 8th. This afternoon, the Board of Directors has disregarded the public’s concerns and voted for the tunnels.

**In response, Kyle Jones, Policy Advocate for Sierra Club California, issued the following statement:**

“The board was irresponsible today when it voted to support and commit hundreds of millions of dollars on the expensive and ill-conceived twin tunnels project. The board has aligned itself with the Metropolitan Water District in Southern California but Santa Clara County residents and the fragile San Francisco Bay Delta will pay the price.

“The proposed tunnels are sure to destroy the ecological system in the Delta. They will not guarantee local water supplies. There are reasonable and smarter ways to meet California’s water demand without building the tunnels, and ultimately, we think reason will prevail. The Sierra Club and our dedicated volunteers will continue in other venues to fight the tunnels and protect the Bay-Delta ecosystem.”

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*Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of Sierra Club’s 13 local chapters in California, representing more than 400,000 members and supporters.*