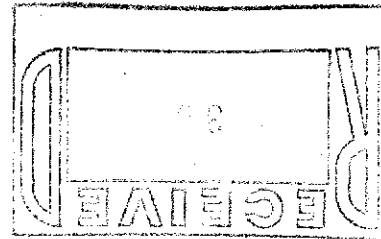
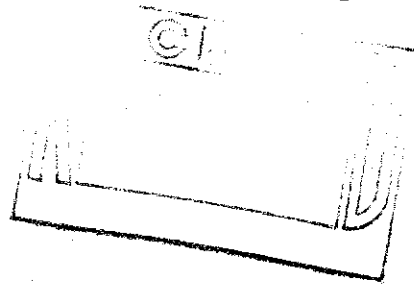
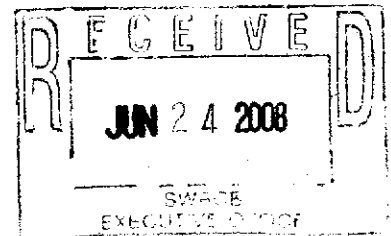


California Legislature



May 28, 2008

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Ms. Doduc:

This letter is to respectfully request that the State Water Resources Control Board delay any action with respect to the proposed revocation of Permits 16209, 16210, 16211, or 16212 regarding the Auburn Dam project.

As the Auburn Dam remains congressionally authorized, it would be premature for the Board to revoke any water rights held by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. As you know, if the water rights were revoked and Congress decided at some point to build the project, the Bureau would have to come back to the Board seeking the return of the existing rights to store water – a potential impediment to ultimately building the project.


While the Auburn Dam would provide an additional supply of water for the region, the greatest benefit to the region is its potential for flood control. Sacramento has the lowest level of flood protection of any major metropolitan region in the nation. After the work is complete on current levee repairs and upgrades to Folsom Dam, Sacramento will still have the lowest level of flood protection of any major metropolitan area, including New Orleans. While those upgrades and repairs are necessary, The Auburn Dam offers the Sacramento region a much great level of flood protection than anything else that could be or is being done on the lower American River. An Auburn Dam would protect an estimated \$25 – 30 billion in property in addition to thousands of lives.

If the State Water Resources Control Board takes the action to revoke the water rights permits currently held by the Bureau, it could potentially be one more nail in the coffin of a project that represents the last, best hope for the level of flood control that the Sacramento Region deserves.


Ms. Tam M. Doduc
May 27, 2008
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While we are aware of the political challenges that have faced this project for some time, until the Auburn Dam is no longer congressionally authorized, we urge the Board to delay any proposed revocation of water rights permits.

Sincerely,



DAVE COX
Senator, 1st District



ROGER NIELLO
Assemblyman, 5th District

cc: Members, State Water Resources Control Board
Ms. Dorothy Rice, Executive Director, SWRCB
Ms. Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Chris Kahn, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Mr. John Moffatt, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor