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**Newsom Tries to Bypass Public Input and Environmental Review to Push Unpopular \$20B Delta Tunnel**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** —Governor Newsom’s May Revise budget confirms what Californians have feared: Newsom is pushing the Delta Tunnel — a deeply unpopular, \$20 billion dollar and counting water export project — by attempting to bypass public input and environmental scrutiny through a budget trailer bill. Instead of ensuring that the public can fully review and challenge the proposed Delta Conveyance Project through established permitting processes and the courts, the Governor is trying to ram it through the back door. It’s an undemocratic move straight out of President Trump’s playbook.

Californians have opposed or directly rejected every version of this project — from the Peripheral Canal to WaterFix — and [recent polling shows](#) voters overwhelmingly prefer investments in local water supply, reuse, and recycling over costly infrastructure that benefits a few at the expense of many. The Department of Water Resources, the Tunnel’s sponsor, has repeatedly failed to provide critical information on water rights, water use, and project operations in the water rights permitting and environmental documentation processes. Now, the Governor wants to sidestep even those flawed public processes. If this project can’t survive transparency and public debate, it has no place in our future.

**“For too long, attempts to modernize our critical water infrastructure have stalled in the endless spin cycle of the Governor's expensive projects, while burdening the people of California with growing costs. We're done with the boondoggles — our state needs a sensible approach to water infrastructure, that actually addresses our climate challenges as soon as possible. Our Governor's pet financial behemoth will land a cannonball dive into the limited pool of funds needed by water suppliers for rising maintenance costs, and new investments in conservation, water reuse, and recycling. We need to stop this project as soon as possible, so that we can better store and manage water to prepare for a hotter, drier, future. Let's NOT get this project built.”**

*— Jann Dorman, Executive Director, Friends of the River*

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