
From: Michael Rozengurt [mailto:rozengurt@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 2010 12:29 PM
To: Rogers, Pat@DeltaCouncil; Herbold.Bruce@EPA.gov
Subject: Fw: about multi-billion dollars water conveyance planning construction

----- Original Message -----

From: [Michael Rozengurt](#)

ADD FIG to: : about multi-billion dollars water conveyance planning construction

----- Original Message -----

From: [Suzanne Bolton \(NOAA\)](#)

To: [Michael Rozengurt](#)

Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 10:38 AM

Subject: : about multi-billion dollars water conveyance planning construction

Hope it gets published. SUZ

Michael Rozengurt wrote:

Arnold Schwarzenegger,
Honorable Governor State of California

04.19.10

On June 20, 1980, **Irwin Haydock** (Ph.D. biology) and I (**Michael Rozengurt**, Ph.D., P.H. in the fields of oceanography and hydrology) sent a letter to California's then **Governor Jerry Brown** and subsequently spread it among numerous State officials as well as scientists of different entities

(see, e.g http://deltavision.ca.gov/docs/9_Comment_from_Irwin_Haydock_11-30-07.pdf).

This two pages letter was based on almost 50 years combined experience and backed by many publications of Dr. Rozengurt as a principal investigator in the former Academy of Sciences of Ukr.S.S.R., concerning the effect of man's activities on environment of River – Delta – Estuary – Coastal sea ecosystems (over 80 publications, including patents, and several monographs – some available in the Library of Congress).

Note that a part of the above references were translated in 1981 by California's Dept. Water Resources and some fundamental conclusions were republished in English in "[Water, Water Everywhere But Just so Much to Drink](#)" in "**Oceans**" Magazine, September 1981 (an Editor and Publisher of this journal at that time was a grandson of President Roosevelt).

Note that in the above-mentioned letter, the following warnings were given to result if, with the help of a Peripheral Canal, there were increasing water withdrawals from Delta for transport to the South (it was the subject of discussion in the press of 1980 almost every day).

In short, at that time we wrote to Governor:

1. That accumulative reduction of runoff, especially in spring, of 25- 30% or more percent of **Normal** (the average over **55-60 years** in concert with international method of hydrological statistics and **UNESCO** methodical regulation), will lead to negative, in term of quality, transformation in regime characteristics of Delta - S.F. Bay.
2. Note that this process corresponds to Universal Laws of Thermodynamics and their derivative characteristic as **Entropy**. The latter is a sign of gradual, prospective demise of **Delta – San Francisco Bay** ecosystem, provoke by intensive, i.e. more then the natural limit in water withdrawals — **approximately 25- 30%!**
3. Further depletion spring and annual runoff will exacerbates degradation of physical and chemical features of habitat of **Lower River – Delta – San Francisco Bay** ecosystem within a

decade;

4. Note that accompanying cumulative losses of millions ton of oxygen and sediment load, and gradual increases in salt intrusion that will lead to salinization of deltaic water that intensify **light penetration, eutrophication, decrease dissolved oxygen**, and dangerously chip away at levee foundations.

5. Note that all of these and other factors will result in marked depletion of biological resources and massive collapse of landings fish and shellfish.

In practice, numerous large rivers have demonstrated that if **water diversion exceed statistically validated limit than runoff deprivation gradually trigger the following mortal for river - delta ecosystem inter connection features, namely: no water, no habitat, no fish or other resources.**

Unfortunately, some in the environmentally naive political establishment of the past fully ignored this letter as well as the results cited in local and international publications (1920-1980, and later, and two book-length reports from CSUSF's Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, 1987,1988).

At the same time, I emphasized that a "Peripheral Canal" was built in the Volga Delta in 1974 (for the same purpose as discussed in California's case), with a \$4 billion dollar price tag (**M. Rozengurt and J Hedgpeth, 1989, Revs.Aquatic Science, 1 (2): 337-362**). **But its** operation in the Volga Delta has resulted in a mortal blow for both habitat and fishery resources of the Delta-North Caspian ecosystem.

Note that the late Mr. **Randall L. Brown, DWR biologist** from DWR's Kennedy administration, was sent to Russia in 1991 to meet some Delta Volga Administration to check my statements and writing about happen to be environmental disaster - Volga Divider, or Peripheral Canal.

According his later personal sharing of facts, he found that my published statement about the Volga unfortunate adventure of billion rubles price tag corresponded to reality.

In addition, Mr. Brown showed Rozengurt (me) at the end of that summer his devastating report to Director Kennedy of DWR about environmental and economical role of Volga Delta Peripheral Canal in the entirely negative transformation of Volga Delta regime characteristics, and migration, spawning, and fishery.

Nowadays, I again urge you and State Administration to facilitate a more rational water policy based on statistically validated results of scientific investigation of runoff and fishery over 40 - 60 years in that (two book-length reports from CSUSF's Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, 1987,1988 and Academician, Professor Luna Leopold studies.

1. California possesses only 28.5 MAF on average of unimpaired runoff over a perennial period (55- 60 years, in concert with UNESCO regulation) in the Sacramento - San Joaquin watershed. This amount determines entirely the survival of the Delta - San Francisco Bay and the State's precious coastal resources;

2. the Sacramento - San Joaquin rivers' spring runoff, that is the lifeblood of this river system, has already been reduced to 10 to 30% of what once was around 11 MAF on average (spring unimpaired runoff as computed over 55 to 60 years)

3. Since 1955 the excessive water withdrawals have deprived the Bay over 600 MAF (million - acre- feet, or 720 cubic kilometers) of freshwater runoff or 100 and 500 times of the volumes of the Bay and Delta, respectively.

In addition, at the same time, millions of tons of organic and inorganic matter, suspended sediment, oxygen, and other components of Delta regime characteristics have been left behind the dams and in water conveyance facilities, and, therefore, have not reached Delta water body.

But historically, the any Delta is the heart (fig.) of river - estuarine ecosystem and the most suitable home for nursery and breeding ground for many commercially important species. In process of deltaic tributaries evolution , they have passed millions acre-feet water, saturated with organic and inorganic load from river watershed, and produced, circulated and reprocessed nutrient increment (about 70%) within their freshwater body. This have maintained the unique richness of delta at whole. Furthermore, the Delta outflow acts as a buffer zone to repel saltwater intrusion, and provide flushings the natural and human introduced pollutants. However, when subnormal, regulated wetness starts prevailing due excessive water diversion - myriads of negative features have been developed nearly simultaneously in Delta. Among them, the salinization of Delta water body. Undoubtedly, salt intrusion into Delta when runoff has been reduced, is most insidious, the inverse of the runoff process.

That is why, any statement about "Restoration" of the Delta with the help of Peripheral Canal or other constructions under manifested of seasonal and annual runoff deprivation was, is, and will be environmental and economical dangerous fallacy! For "No One Can Get Something from Nothing, i.e. no runoff - no habitat- no living resources."

Unfortunately, the past and current incessant water development has negated these universal facts, and, therefore, made the system impounded. As a result, almost despoliation of the Delta has occurred.

*Therefore, the dissection of rivers by numerous dams and other water diversion systems has broke river continuum. As a result, the river runoffs have nothing in common with history of it evolution. That is why, all belies of the statements that have claimed that it possible to restore historical habitats of impounded River - Delta - San Francisco Bay ecosystem have to be considered **as reduction ad absurdum.***

Recomendation :

*I dare to state that only a nuclear powered desalination plant (like operated in city of Shevchenko, Mangyshlak Peninsula, Caspian sea, or other areas) built in the Bay area can save the Delta from fresh water starvation and agonizing demise, for it can produce hundreds of thousand cubic meters (or millions of acre-feet) fresh water, that can be used to recharge water conveyance system as drought conditions may occur and concern over water availability increases. Note that today are over 7,500 **desalination** plants in operation worldwide.*

Cordially,

M.Rozengurt, Ph.D., P.E.

(1045 N.Kings Rd.,#207,W.Hollywood, Ca.90069)

Cc.:



**THE DELTA IS THE HEART OF THE ESTUARINE SYSTEM:
WILL IT SURVIVE?**