



Wednesday, March 29, 2012

Chairman Dario Frommer
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street (MS-52)
Sacramento, Ca. 95814
Via FAX: 916-653-2134; Attention Angela

Re: 3-29-12 CTC Meeting Agenda Item #84, Financial Allocation of \$135,511,000 of Prop 1B STIP funds for the Willits Bypass Project

Dear Chairman Frommer and Commissioners;

On behalf of the Willits Environmental Center, the Golden State Land Conservancy, other organizations and individuals, we urge the California Transportation Commission not to allocate funds to build the Willits Bypass Project at this time. Several environmental impacts, as well as economic and financial impacts of the project and the proposed Mitigation and Monitoring Plan have not been fully disclosed or analyzed, such as the loss of approximately 400 acres of farmland, and the escalating costs of mitigation. In addition, several environmental, economic and factual conditions have changed since this project first came before the Commission, which warrant a re-evaluation of the need for and advisability of going forward with this project as proposed.

It is also our position that the proposed Mitigation and Monitoring Plan fails to demonstrate that the loss of protected public trust resources, specifically wetlands and listed salmonid habitat, has been adequately mitigated as required by statutes.

For these reasons, we urge Commission to delay the allocation of funds for the Willits Bypass Project until these issues are resolved. You may contact us at the location cited below for a detailed analysis of our position regarding the above issues: Willits Environmental Center, 630 South Main Street, Willits CA, 95490 or by phone at 707-459-4110. Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ellen Drell'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ellen Drell, Willits Environmental Center, et al

