



NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County
MARY NEJEDLY PIEPHO
Board Supervisors, District III

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Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho Discovery Bay Community Leaders and County Officials Meet with Congressman McNerney Groups Pleads for More Thorough look at 2-Gates Project

Brentwood, CA – Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho brought a delegation of Discovery Bay community leaders and county officials to Stockton and met with Congressman McNerney today to express grave concerns with the 2-Gates project currently being considered by the U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

“I appreciate that Congressman McNerney took the time and brought in the two federal agencies to hear first hand our reservations about the 2-Gates project and potential impacts that had been largely ignored or gone unanswered by state agencies,” stated Supervisor Mary Nejedly. “The federal agencies assured us that the 2-Gates project would get a more thorough review and questions would be answered before the project moved forward,” She added.

Working with Supervisor Piepho, the group sought the meeting because they felt there had been little opportunity to bring the local perspective to the project design and development. They expressed concern that the project is focused on a predetermined outcome and is not stepping back to see the bigger picture including serious degradation of the Delta estuary.

“I was proud to see a number of local groups come together to elevate the issue and work together to affect change,” commented Mike Guzzardo, a local realtor and representative of the Save the San Francisco Bay and Delta Foundation. “The system worked as it should and it appears we were heard,” added Guzzardo.

The group’s concerns included agency oversight, public safety, water quality, and boating impediments. The agencies listened and acknowledged that the cost and the scientific underpinnings of the project may warrant additional evaluation.

Attendees included Discovery Bay Community Services District Director, Kevin Graves,

Commissioner Lenora Clark with the California Department of Boating and Waterways, Discovery Bay resident Jan McCleery, Mike Guzzardo and Dave Dove representing the Save the San Francisco Bay and Delta Foundation, and County staff.

The 2-Gates project proposes to mount gates on a submerged cargo barge in the Old River area of the Delta. The project's stated purpose is to determine if Delta Smelt can be prevented from being sucked into the pumps that send water to points south. The applicant and proponents of the project include Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority. The State of California has already waived the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project and is proposing to spend \$44 million on the five year research project.

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