

Bully-boy demands

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/02/27/3795247/bully-boy-demands.html>

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Building a reservoir at Temperance Flat makes as much sense as handing out gold-plated bowls to beggars as a solution to poverty.

Desalinating the Pacific Ocean and piping it to grow nuts and cotton makes as much sense as providing caviar and champagne to make up for shortages in the school lunch program.

The proposal to destroy the delta by building two costly monolithic tunnels to give more water to the west-side land barons to grow water-intensive export crops and exacerbate their irreversible toxic salt buildup makes no sense.

The 50% of the west-side land that is becoming saline due to the absence of drainage should be re-purposed with a phased 50-year program. Instead of a "rob Peter to reward Paul" redistribution scheme, I propose to keep the west-side land barons' water limit to their original "entitlement" of surplus water. And, I propose that new users such as the water/chemical frackers who permanently destroy scarce water be banned altogether. Lastly, I propose financial incentives and tiered fees for profligate water users to accelerate water-conservation efforts.

Big Ag is a huge water consumer and needs to take responsibility that goes beyond its self-interested bully-boy political demands.

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