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**Salmon Demise Likely Under Proposed Twin Tunnel Plan**  
*GGSA comments on project's clear threat to salmon*

San Francisco -- Plans to build a massive new water diversion and conveyance structure in the Delta will spell the end of California's salmon runs according to comments submitted today by the Golden Gate Salmon Association. The comments responded to a draft EIR/EIS describing the twin tunnel project. GGSA's comments echo earlier findings from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service showing the project would greatly damage salmon runs in California's Central Valley.

"There's no doubt the current manmade system for diverting Sacramento River delta water south has badly harmed our native fisheries, including our salmon runs. However, it's also clear that the state Department of Water Resources and water users south of the Delta have proposed this massive water diversion and twin tunnels that suits their needs and then tried unsuccessfully to manipulate the science to show it won't wipe out salmon," said GGSA executive director John McManus.

"The proposed massive water diversion and tunnel project would basically take too much upper Sacramento River basin water in many years, leaving too little cold water available to sustain salmon spawning," said GGSA chairman Roger Thomas. Thomas is also the president of the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, a group representing charter boat operators. "We don't have enough water for salmon as is in most years. Where are they going to get the extra water from?"

"The relative trickle of water left downstream of the diversion point near Sacramento would be too little to flush baby salmon to the bay and ocean or sustain the health of the Delta and bay," said GGSA vice-chair Zeke Grader. Grader is also the executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, a group representing commercial salmon fishermen.

Other comments point to the likelihood that the three giant diversion intake screens used to supply the twin tunnels, will harm or kill salmon. Baby salmon will be sucked up against the screens, more than a third of a mile long each, since the river current isn't strong enough at

the planned site to safely sweep them by. The screens will operate at times of the year when the highest concentrations of baby salmon are passing by and will create conditions favorable to bigger fish that feed on juvenile salmon. More dangerous reverse currents will be created downstream of the diversion in side channels pulling baby salmon off course to their death in the interior Delta. These are just some of the ways the proposed project will harm salmon and other native species.

“As currently planned, the BDCP will wreak carnage on salmon. Wiping out salmon will kill jobs and harm the economy of our coastal and inland communities,” said McManus. “It’s hard to imagine a scenario where the current tunnel proposal could survive a court challenge since it blatantly violates laws intended to protect wildlife,” he concluded.

The Golden Gate Salmon Association ([www.goldengatesalmonassociation.org](http://www.goldengatesalmonassociation.org)) is a coalition of salmon advocates that includes commercial and recreational salmon fisherman, businesses, restaurants, an Indian tribe, environmentalists, elected officials, families and communities that rely on salmon. GGSA’s mission is to protect and restore California’s largest salmon producing habitat comprised of the Central Valley river’s that feed the Bay-Delta ecosystem and the communities that rely on salmon as a long-term, sustainable, commercial, recreational and cultural resource.

Currently, California’s salmon industry is valued at \$1.4 billion in economic activity annually and about half that much in economic activity and jobs again in Oregon. The industry employs tens of thousands of people from Santa Barbara to northern Oregon. This is a huge economic bloc made up of commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen (fresh and salt water), fish processors, marinas, coastal communities, equipment manufacturers, the hotel and food industry, tribes, and the salmon fishing industry at large.