





August 5th, 2026

Re: Potential California Forever Trailer Bill

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate Pro Tempore Limón, Speaker Rivas, Senator Laird, and Assemblymember Gabriel:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong opposition to **any** last-minute budget trailer bills that would grant special environmental exemptions and bypass local approval processes for the California Forever project in Solano County.

As was reported by both [CalMatters](#) and the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), there has been intense lobbying of your offices by California Forever and their billionaire tech backers in an effort to secure preferential treatment for certain aspects of their project. This has apparently centered on advocacy for budget trailer bill language to create new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining measures for the project's shipbuilding component, and modifications to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) annexation process. **Advancing these proposals at the last minute would be extraordinarily harmful to Solano County communities and the environment, and we urge you to reject any such legislation.**

The breadth and scope of what is being asked demands the kind of transparency and evaluation that can only be achieved through the full legislative process. This secretive trailer bill language would simultaneously rewrite CEQA standards, restructure LAFCO annexation procedures, and potentially override a county-level voter initiative. Each of these things, on their own, would warrant careful legislative scrutiny, public hearings, and stakeholder input. Bundling all of these changes into a last-minute budget trailer bill, with no opportunity for public comment, expert testimony, or meaningful amendment, or even for the legislature to fully understand the impacts of the bill, is an unacceptable short-circuiting of the democratic process in favor of the project's wealthy, high-powered backers.

California's legislative process exists precisely for moments like this. Committee hearings allow legislators to play their intended roles, representing the interests of the communities that elect them. This is impossible when sweeping policy changes are negotiated behind closed doors and dropped into budget language days before final approval, all at the behest of a few powerful interests.

Rushing this through denies the communities of Solano County their basic right to representation, and skips the public process that would allow a thorough review and assessment of the environmental, water, transportation, budget, and other untold and unknown impacts this massive development would have on our state.

We urge you to reject any last-minute legislation that would circumvent the California Environmental Quality Act or modify the LAFCO annexation processes, or other efforts to sidestep local discretion and decision-making abilities that Californians depend on in order to safeguard our farmland, our environment, and our communities.

Sincerely,

Jane Hicks
Co-President
Napa Solano Audubon Society

Molly Culton
Chapter Organizing Director
Sierra Club California

Sal Rosselli
President Emeritus
National Union of Healthcare Workers

Sherri Norris
Executive Director
California Indian Environmental Alliance

Jordan Grimes
Legislative Director
Greenbelt Alliance

Paul Towers
Executive Director
Community Alliance With Family Farmers

Cristal Gallegos
Director
Vallejo Housing Justice Coalition

Suzanna Hume
Educational Director and Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Morgen Snyder
Director of Programs & Policy
Restore the Delta

Bill Magavern
Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

Juan Pablo Galvan Martinez
Land Advocacy Director
Save Mount Diablo

Gabriel Tolson
Policy Advocate
Planning and Conservation League

Slater Matzke
Chair
United Democrats of Southern Solano County

Susan Jordan
Founder and Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Bob Berman
Chair
Solano County Orderly Growth Committee

Torri Estrada
Executive Director
Carbon Cycle Institute

James DeKloe
Chair
Sierra Club Solano Group

Lesley Beatty
Director
ClimatePlan

Nikila Gibson
President
Tri-City NAACP

Don Lowrie
Chairperson
Solano County Democratic Central Committee

Laura Neish
Executive Director
350 Bay Area Action

Kenneth Baccetti
President
California Striped Bass Association-Isleton Delta Chapter

Sandra Schubert
Executive Director
Tuleyome

Cliff Howard
President
Solano County Farm Bureau

Kathy Kerridge
Chair
Progressive Democrats of Benicia

Alexis Koefoed
Owner
Soul Food Farm

Nick Jensen
Conservation Program Director
California Native Plant Society

Anna Larson
Associate Policy Director
California Climate and Agriculture Network

Chance Cutrano
Director of Programs
Resource Renewal Institute

Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Policy Specialist
Center for Biological Diversity

Laura Walsh
Policy Manager
Save the Bay

Jessica Wohlander
Policy and Advocacy Associate Manager
Green Foothills

Kevin McNamara
Acting Chair
Rio Vista Democratic Club

Laura Cunningham
California Director
Western Watersheds Project

Chris Shutes
Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Pamela Heatherington
Board of Directors
Environmental Center of San Diego

Larry Glass
Public Lands Director
Northcoast Environmental Center

Jazzari Taylor
Policy Advocate
Latino Outdoors

Victoria Rome
CA Government Affairs Director
Natural Resources Defence Council

Travis Longcore
President
Los Angeles Audubon Society

Andria Ventura
Legislative and Policy Director
Clean Water Action

Marc Reed
Chairman
Solano County Republicans

Mariela Ruacho
Senior Policy Advocate
Leadership Counsel for Justice and
Accountability

Sean McNamara
Partner
Sierra Orchards

Kimberly Baker
Executive Director
Klamath Forest Alliance

Osha Meserve
Counsel
Local Agencies of the North Delta

Sean MacCracken
Cofounder
Solano Napa Region Branch of the East Bay
Democratic Socialists of America

Erica Harris
Co-Executive Director
Siskiyou Land Trust

Bettina Rosmarino
Land Acquisition Director
Oswit Land Trust

Judith Lamare
Co-Founder
Friends of the Swainson's Hawk

Jim Peugh
Conservation Committee CoChair
San Diego Bird Alliance

Christina Ralston
Associate Attorney
San Francisco Baykeeper

Thomas R. Fox
Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health