

LARA WEISIGER

From: Trish Spencer
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 7:34 AM
To: Heinrich Albert
Cc: Jill Keimach; Janet Kern; LARA WEISIGER
Subject: RE: smart water policies vs destructive dams

Dear Mr. Albert,

Thank you for your comprehensive email. I look forward to Council's decision on this important matter. As you know, I have requested that it be on the May 17 Council agenda.

Sincerely,

Trish Spencer
Mayor, City of Alameda

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Heinrich Albert <heinrich.albert@outlook.com>
Date: 05/02/2016 8:20 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Trish Spencer <TSpencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: smart water policies vs destructive dams

Dear Council Member

I've spoken with you previously about efforts to put Alameda on record in support of smart water storage and in opposition to building new destructive dams. I understand that a letter to the Secretary of the Interior asking her not to approve a federal role in new California dams has been distributed to you. I'm attaching that letter again for your convenience.

I understand approval of that letter will be considered at the 17 May meeting of the Alameda City Council. I am asking for your support of that letter.

This is a state-wide issue, but it affects Alameda in a very direct way. The health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the entire San Francisco Bay estuary is under severe stress due to ever reduced freshwater flows into the delta. Building new dams that divert still more water from the major Delta tributaries drives another nail into the coffin of our native freshwater fish and other wildlife in these riparian ecosystems. The value of Alameda's existing waterfront parks and the new parklands proposed for Alameda Point, and much of what makes Alameda such a great place to live, depends on a healthy bay environment.

California already has over 1400 dams. All but two of our major rivers are dammed, most are dammed multiple times. The history of the large water projects in California shows that the major beneficiaries (agricultural

companies) have always received water at greatly subsidized prices. Projected operating costs (borne by the public) for new dams work out to \$1300/acre foot, while today central valley irrigation districts receive water for as low as \$20/acre foot. Water priced like that creates its own demand; California acreage of crops requiring irrigation has increased even during the recent drought years. Building new dams does not solve water shortages; instead it pours fuel on the fire.

We have many smart, proven, cost-effective methods to meet our water needs sustainably. Alameda has been a leader in promoting water use efficiency. I ask for your support to continue our tradition of responsible stewardship of our environment and natural resources.

I would be happy to meet with you or send further information at your request.

Thanks for your consideration,

Heinrich Albert
510-227-6387
River Advocate, Friends of the River
Co-Chair, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Water Committee