



At the podium, Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City), flanked by members of the Delta Caucus, speaks at a press conference organized to push back on Gov. Newsom’s planned upgrades to the State Water Project. CBM screenshot.

\$20 Billion Water Battle: Delta Lawmakers and Tribes Push Back on Newsom’s Tunnel Project

By Tanu T. Henry
California Black Media

“I want to be crystal clear. Fast-tracking the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is a direct attack on our region’s environmental integrity, economic stability and public trust,” Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) warned Gov. Newsom.

Wilson, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), was speaking at a press conference on May 20 at the State Capitol organized to push back against the Governor’s plans to speed up \$20 billion worth of improvements to the State Water Project (SWP), a tunnel that delivers water from Northern California to areas in the south of the state.

Wilson, who is also co-chair of the legislative Delta Caucus, was joined at the press conference by Sen. Jerry McNERney, the other co-chair of the caucus, and Assemblymember Rhodesia Ranson (D-Tracy), also a member of the CLBC.

Other Delta Caucus members — a bipartisan group of lawmakers representing counties in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, where the tunnel begins — also attended, along with officials from the Delta Coalition of Counties, regional environmental leaders and tribal leaders from the Delta.

Almost a week before, on May 14, when Gov. Newsom presented his May revision of the state’s 2025-26 budget, he announced his plans to make improvements to the water supply infrastructure he called “critical.”

Planned upgrades include a 45-mile tunnel with intakes to draw water from the Sacramento River; a connection to the California Aqueduct via the Bethany Reservoir; new earthquake-resistant features; a pumping plant, and other improvements.

“For too long, attempts to modernize our critical water infrastructure have stalled in endless red tape, burdened with unnecessary delay,” said Newsom, referring to opposition to the project by environmental leaders and others.

“We’re done with barriers — our state needs to complete this project as soon as possible, so that we can better store and manage water to prepare for a hotter, drier future. Let’s get this built,” the Governor added.

Newsom is urging the State Legislature to create policy that will simplify the process to obtain construction permits and expedite the time judicial reviews take.

Wilson said the construction on the tunnel will damage the San Joaquin Valley ecosystem.

“Shifting water from one farming region to benefit another farming region does not solve our water problem,” she said. Wilson also pointed out that the project will become a cost burden for utility ratepayers.

According to the Governor’s office, California is expected to lose 10% of its water supply and the reliability of the existing tunnel to deliver water could reduce by 23%. The project, expected to begin in 2029, is designed to respond to that eventuality by making key improvements to the tunnel that “captures, moves and stores water used by 27 million people and 750,000 acres of farmland.”

Ransom said the project would “steal water” from the Delta.

“I’m disappointed to see this proposal to override legal protections and statutes to violate both water and property rights. Let’s be real- this is a \$20 billion water grab that shifts wealth from the San Joaquin Delta to wealthy Southern California interests,” said Ransom.

Sen. Rosilice Ochoa Bogh Praises U.S. Senate for Voting to End Taxes on Service Workers’ Tips



Sen. Rosilice Ochoa Bogh (R- Redlands)

By Tanu Henry
California Black Media

In a unanimous vote on May 20, the U.S. Senate voted to eliminate federal taxes on tips for service workers.

California State Sen. Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Redlands) praised the U.S. Senate for passing the bill, which was introduced by U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

“I applaud the U.S. Senate for putting service workers first and providing much-needed tax relief. Now it’s California’s turn,” said Ochoa Bogh, who has authored similar legislation in California, Senate Bill (SB) 17.

The U.S. Senate bill, which codifies into federal law a campaign promise made by Presi-

dent Trump, establishes a tax deduction of up to \$25,000 for tips for employees who earn less than \$160,000. The deduction is limited to cash tips workers earn and report to employers for withholding on their paychecks.

“Tipped workers are taxed on inconsistent and unpredictable income causing instability in their families already struggling to make ends meet,” said Ochoa Bogh.

However, on May 23, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to send Ochoa Bogh’s no-state-tax-on-service-workers bill — along with hundreds of others — to the “suspense file,” where bills are sent for further consideration of costs to the state.

if the reform law never existed.

Fortunately, Congress is taking action with new legislation to keep the Postal Service delivering like it should. Called the “USPS Services Enhancement and Regulatory Viability Expansion and Sustainability for the U.S. Act” (or USPS SERVES US Act), the bill would give the Postal Regulatory Commission — the agency that regulates the USPS — the power to stop onerous stamp hikes and delays. The bill, introduced by Congressman Sam Graves (R-Mo.), would also limit price increases to once per-year, and institute other reforms aimed at accountability, efficiency and success.

While there are many issues in today’s tumultuous world that deserve attention, there is no doubt that the mail is essential and needs help. If Congress doesn’t enact the USPS SERVES US Act, the price of a stamp could be \$1.19 by 2030. By then the Postal Service could even be defunct — destroying our ability to send and receive mail and putting its 8 million employees out of a job.

Remember that for millions of Americans, mail isn’t just a convenience; it’s a lifeline. The Postal Service is the only courier that delivers to every address in the U.S., no matter how rural or remote. No private company could — or would — deliver to our country’s most remote locations because profits are the first priority for any private enterprise. And that’s exactly why the U.S. Postal Service should be reformed, not privatized.

Like our country, the Postal Service was established by the people, for the people — and we must take action to keep it that way. If you would like to help save the mail, please ask your member of Congress to support the USPS SERVES US Act.

Now is the time to raise our voices and save the mail before it self-destructs.

About the Author

Kevin Yoder is a former Republican congressman from Kansas and executive director of Keep Us Posted — a nonprofit advocacy group. To learn more and easily ask your member of Congress to support the USPS SERVES US Act, visit www.KeepUSPosted.org to take action.



Kevin Yoder.

OPINION: Let’s Urge Congress to Pass Legislation to Save the U.S. Postal Service

By Kevin Yoder
Special to California Black Media Partners

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night can stop the U.S. Postal Service, but the mismanagement of former Postmaster General Louis DeJoy might. Although DeJoy resigned this spring, the U.S. Postal Service continues to follow his failed “Delivering for America” plan.

DeJoy’s 2021 Delivering for America plan has been a disaster. It kicked off stamp and postage rate increases twice per-year at amounts far above the inflation rate — something that had never been done throughout the Postal Service’s 250-year history. Still following DeJoy’s foolish plan, the Postal Service is plotting yet another price hike this July.

Postal officials are making mail prohibitively expensive for consumers and businesses alike, but they are also making mail services increasingly slow and unreliable. As a result, the Postal Service is hemorrhaging customers — and we’re not even halfway through DeJoy’s 10-year plan.

Congress stepped up in 2022 with a series of bipartisan reforms, including removing a requirement for the Postal Service to pre-fund its retiree health benefits 75 years in advance. That reform alone has saved the Postal Service billions of dollars. And although it was intended to preserve service and prevent the need for massive postage hikes, DeJoy still plowed ahead as



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OPINION: Race Hustler? That Would Be Donald Trump, of Course

By Emil Guillermo

Jemele Hill is an African American writer and broadcaster I respect, so I take great umbrage at a Right-wing writer’s description of her as a “race hustler.”

MAGA media loves to call any truth teller a “race hustler.”

It’s a despicable slur.

But that’s a reminder to reject the idea that diversity and identity politics is dead.

Identity politics is very much alive.

Yes, the landscape is bleak with the attacks and roll backs on DEI in public and corporate settings.

And, yes, on the 5th anniversary of George Floyd’s death, we are watching rollbacks of police reform initiatives at the Department of Justice level, where a conservative Asian American, Harmeet Dhillon of the Bay Area, is playing a major role in all the undoing. What lives matter in 2025? Few dare to be so specific during Trump 2.0.

But not Trump. All this time 47 is playing MAGA identity politics just the same.

Who was spreading lies about a “South African Genocide” that doesn’t exist? It was Trump from the Oval Office last week spewing propaganda about genocidal murders in South Africa. The official stats say the actual numbers of deaths in South African farms is in single digits. That does not a genocide make.

And yet claims of genocide are being used to justify refugee status for White Afrikaners.

Maybe he should put them on that bribe plane he got from Qatar and send them all back to South Africa?

Meanwhile, Trump is deporting legitimate refugees like the Asian Americans he’s cruelly relocated to Sudan. Then there’s the more than 9,000 Afghans who worked with U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Department of Homeland Security terminated their temporary protected status this month.

That’s a far cry from Trump’s

treatment of the 54 Afrikaners who are welcomed with open arms.

With the White population numbers dropping, Trump’s got to get those White numbers up. He’s embarked on an unprecedented identity politics strategy — the importing of White racists to America.

THE CENSUS

And therein lies the value of the importance of the Census. Numbers matter. We need to make sure the country maintains the trend in the 2020 Census — where Hispanics, Blacks, and Asians are growing at an unprecedented pace.

And while this is not the big Census year, it is the year for the American Community Survey (ACS).

So even the ACS is important. It’s also the law. You must fill it out.

The form is nosier than I recalled. It’s not anonymous, and it asks for your name, your address, your employer, their address.

If I was undocumented (I am not), I’d hesitate for sure.

I never reacted that way in the past.

Under Trump, will the Censustaker be an ICE person in Department of Commerce drag?

WHAT TO DO?

We all need to be counted.

And who knows what forms will be discarded by the counters. I’d rather we flood them with the truth — despite all the lies from the Trump administration on everything from Kilmar Abrego Garcia to South African genocide.

About the Author

Emil Guillermo is a veteran Bay Area journalist, commentator, and stage monologist. See him at the Marsh SF/1062 Valencia St., June 2, 7pm, performing an excerpt from his latest “Amok Monologue.” <https://ci.ovationtix.com/36078/production/1225946>

Watch his microtalk show on [YouTube.com/@emilamok1](https://www.youtube.com/@emilamok1)

Book Review: The Battle for the Black Mind ...

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grew, education beyond a few years of elementary school was “rare” for Black Americans. By then, says Brown, Black women had stepped up to do the work, becoming teachers, bookkeepers, experts in strategy, fundraisers, staffers, managers, and marketers — sometimes, all at once.

Blending personal observations and experiences with good backgrounding, Brown tells this story in a conversational tone that invites readers to peek down the halls of HBCU history and into classrooms. She writes to readers, rather than at them, which helps to open minds for what’s inside “The

Battle for the Black Mind.”

You may not need to be reminded about racism in Black American education, but the secrets she shares and the lines she draws are highlighted to seem like new information. Here, readers can see more clearly the connections between the early twentieth century and now, and how Project 2025 could change the trajectory. Fortunately, Brown also offers advice and ideas for taking action and ensuring that upcoming generations can win the next “battle.”

“The Battle for the Black Mind” is a lively book that you can read for information, history, or just because. But beware: it might make you want to get up, contact your Representative or Congressperson, and act. It’s the kind of book that’ll make you think.

NOTICE AND DIGEST

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE WILDFIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS THEREOF, AND DEFINING THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF SAID COMMISSION

This Ordinance establishes the Wildfire Prevention Commission in accordance with the requirements of Oakland City Charter section 601, which provides that the City Council shall create all advisory boards and commissions by Ordinance and that the Mayor shall appoint all board members subject to confirmation by the City Council. This ordinance establishes the jurisdiction, duties, and powers of the Commission as delineated by Measure MM.

Notice of Publication

This Ordinance was introduced at the Special City Council meeting, Tuesday afternoon **May 20, 2025**, and passed to print **8 Ayes**. Final adoption has been scheduled for the City Council meeting Tuesday evening **June 3, 2025, 3:30 P.M.**, at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Council Chamber, 3rd floor, Oakland, California, and via Teleconference.

Three full copies are available for use and examination by the public in the Office of the City Clerk at One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1st floor, Oakland, California.

ASHA REED, City Clerk

Publication Date: **Friday, May 30, 2025.**
(One Time)