



## Ballico Cortez Water District

July 23, 2018

SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
 State Water Resources Control Board  
 1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
 Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Ballico Cortez Water District (BCWD) is approximately 6,800 acres located in the region that is north of the Merced River and up to the Merced county line. Although a small district, we are made up of farmers within Merced County that helps make this county the sixth top producing agricultural county in California, Merced County agriculture plays a significant role in the overall well-being of California's economy. The region's farms and related manufacturing businesses account for 25 percent of the valley's revenues and 16 percent of local jobs.

BCWD is very concerned with your Draft Revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED) supporting Phase 1 of the Board's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. If approved, your proposal requiring the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers to dedicate 40 percent of unimpaired flow to fish and wildlife would cause irreversible harm to our region. Farming will be curtailed, people will lose their jobs, the cost of basic food needs will increase, and the overall health of California's economy will be endangered.

In addition, the Revised SED dramatically harms the nearly two-year effort by our local water agencies who are diligently working to achieve the state-mandated groundwater sustainability goals outlined in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). If implemented, the SED will be the direct cause of groundwater reduction in our region, making it nearly impossible to achieve the state-mandated groundwater sustainability.

Before your board votes to harm our agricultural economy, our drinking water and community, please work with the local water districts (many of whom have peer-reviewed, most recent science) to look at non-flow measures that can accomplish realistic goals for the environment and the Bay-Delta before considering a flow-centric approach.

Sincerely,

Dirk Ulrich  
 Chairman of the Ballico Cortez Water District

cc: Frances Spivy-Weber, Vice Chair  
 Tam Doduc, Board Member

12714 Cortez Avenue, Turlock, California 95380

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**From:** commentletters <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018 11:16 AM  
**To:** LSJR-SD-Comments; WQCP1Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Comment letter from Ballico Cortez Water District 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
**Attachments:** BCWD letter to State Water Board.pdf

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Was sent directly to the SWRCB Comment letter box.

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**From:** kareneastside@att.net <kareneastside@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018 10:38 AM  
**To:** commentletters <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment letter from Ballico Cortez Water District 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
**Importance:** High

Attached is a comment letter from Ballico Cortez Water District regarding the 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED.

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