

State Water Resources Control Board

JUL 19 2016

Tom Changnon, Superintendent
Stanislaus County
Office of Education
1100 H Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Steven E. Gomes, Ed. D, Superintendent
Merced County
Office of Education
32 West 13th Street
Merced, CA 95341

Dear Mr. Changnon and Dr. Gomes:

Thank you for your joint letter dated April 5, 2016, expressing your continued concerns with the potential effects of proposed changes to San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta water quality requirements included in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). You express concern that implementation of the plan will have significant effects on groundwater and drinking water in Merced and Stanislaus Counties, and that implementation of the plan will adversely impact the students in your districts. You also express concern that the soon to be released recirculated draft substitute environmental document (SED) will not adequately address the economic impact to education in your districts.

As I said in response to Dr. Gomes' March 8, 2016 letter, our recirculated draft SED will include several new chapters that address concerns raised by you and others who could be affected by implementation of the Bay-Delta Plan. Among the new chapters is one that addresses potential impacts to drinking water sources. The recirculated draft SED will also have an expanded analysis of potential groundwater impacts. Overall economic impacts to the region, especially to agriculture, will be included. We believe the revised SED will include analyses that address your concerns and the similar concerns we have heard from other stakeholders in the project area.

Also stated in the same letter, water supply reliability is an ongoing concern for the Board. Over the last few years, the Board has provided over \$750,000 in drought emergency funding to drill and restore wells and provide water to drought stricken communities in Merced County. Much of this funding has specifically been devoted to provide water to schools. Our Division of Financial Assistance and Division of Drinking Water stand ready to work with Merced County water suppliers to help address the long term reliability of their systems. This support can be used to help communities adjust as sustainable plans were developed for surface and groundwater supplies that account for implementation of Bay-Delta Plan changes.

Thank you both for taking the time to write. When the recirculated SED is released, I will

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look for your comments on the analyses and conclusions. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Les Grober, Assistant Deputy Director for Water Right, at (916) 341-5428 or les.grober@waterboards.ca.gov. Written correspondence should be addressed as follows: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, Attn: Les Grober, P. O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Howard".

Thomas Howard
Executive Director