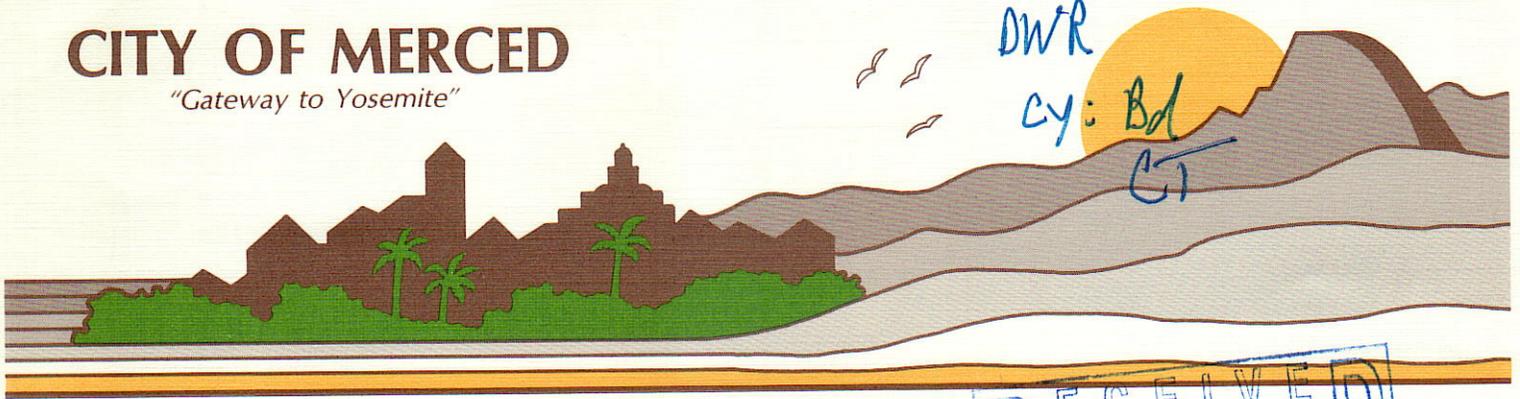


# CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



August 10, 2015

Felicia Marcus  
Board Chairwoman  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

As Mayor of the City of Merced, I write to you to request that you engage in discussions with the technical experts of the City of Merced and Merced County about your proposed 2012 Bay-Delta Plan. Your plan to increase flows in the Stanislaus, Merced, and Tuolumne rivers will have wide-reaching consequences for the City of Merced and I do not believe that your Board fully grasps the scope of the destruction that may follow if your plan is implemented as drafted.

Please understand that Merced is a 100% groundwater city. Our drinking water, the water needed for our businesses, and our growing UC Merced campus is solely dependent on the health of the aquifer.

Your plan will deepen the existing challenges our economy has faced over the past 6 years. Merced County's economy is heavily influenced by our agriculturally based community which is already suffering from another year of drought.

Merced residents are already facing great challenges economically. The City of Merced is home to over 80,000 people and nearly 50% of Merced residents are Latino. The most recent census figures estimate that 30% of the population lives below the poverty level, compared to the state-wide average of approximately 16%. Our unemployment rate remains over 10%.

I agree with you, that your plan as drafted will have "significant" impacts on the City of Merced. I do not agree that those impacts are "unavoidable." I challenge your Board to consider the 80,000 residents of Merced and engage with me and others in a dialogue about how those effects may be mitigated. I look forward to your response to our request in the near future.

Sincerely,

Stanley P. Thurston

Mayor

cc: City Council Members  
Senator Anthony Cannella