



November 29, 2016

State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
To whom it concerns,

My name is Robert Carabas, the Democratic candidate for the 5th Assembly District in the General Election 2016. Though I lost, I received over 61,000 votes. One of three issues central to my campaign was global warming, which results in progressively less water. Many of the people who voted for me would agree with what I am writing.

I support increasing the river flows in the Tuolumne, Merced and Stanislaus rivers to 50%. Climate science is telling us that our region is warming, our snow packs are diminishing, and longer hotter droughts are inevitable especially since Congress resists action on CO₂s. Our weather patterns are likely to change to long-term drought with occasional powerful storms bringing sudden flood conditions. Our traditional storage behind dams and reservoirs may be obsolete during long-term drought and will take on a new function as collection points for distribution of water from short term weather events to underground valley aquifer storage. We will need the right kind of water storage and distribution infrastructure: individual, community and state.

River flows into the Delta must be preserved at high level to prevent the incursion of salt water pushing upriver from the Bay, risking polluting Central Valley aquifers and a potential decline in Central Valley productivity. At an 18" sea rise, we face those catastrophic dangers. During the last 150 years water levels have risen 8" at an accelerating rate. By mid-century we will likely reach 18". At the same time our temperatures will rise from today's 10 to 25 days of 100-degree temperatures by mid-century to 25-50 days and by 2100, 50-100 days of 100-degree temperatures per year.

If we bend to today's political pressure for our regional economy and cities they will likely fight for the greatest share of water rather than confronting future shortages. We will continue to build infrastructure that assumes historical supplies of water. We must encourage applying the best possible techniques to water use, while preserving quality. If we maintain the river flows our cities and economy will adjust to these realities sooner and we may avoid untenable water decisions in the future.

Finally, we must preserve our natural world. It's arrogant to believe nature's waters are ours to consume. We cannot allow our rivers to become un-flushed sewers unable to maintain surrounding life to meet short-term human demand. We must buy wildlife as much time as possible for humanity to understand and perhaps solve its water dilemma. We must have a workable ethical framework toward water since the alternative is unthinkable and unworkable.

I support the State Water Board raising the minimum flow levels in the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and Merced rivers to at least 50% of the natural unimpaired flows that would occur without dams and diversions.

Robert Carabas