



March 14, 2017

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

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

Dear Secretary Bose:

My name is David Walker. My father Fred Walker started Meadowbrook Water Company in the disadvantaged Beachwood/Franklin community west of the city of Merced back in 1955. My family came from Owens Valley in 1926, moving to Merced after the water theft undertaken by the City of Los Angeles; an action that turned a lush valley into a sandstorm prone wasteland.

Unfortunately, I feel like I'm experiencing deja vu. I see the pressure southern California is facing with reduced deliveries from the Colorado River and Delta exports. I hear about plans to tunnel under the Delta and the need to take water from this area, another "water grab" to benefit the Los Angeles basin. I am afraid the State's recent first visit here could be the first of many others to follow in the future until there is nothing left.

I will withhold judgement on the Bay-Delta plan as water robbery, if the SWRCB sincerely works hand in hand with the locals whose livelihood is at stake. The SWRCB owes us to explore all other means before applying the nuclear solution of basically taking our water away to other parts of the State. With the highest salmon return on record in the Merced River this year, I believe the previously painted urgency of the do or die approach for salmon is not warranted at this time. A comprehensive solution based on the spirit of the SAFE plan, previously presented to you, together with systematic scientific observations will lead to an optimal proposal with regard to water releases along the Merced River.

Sometimes simple solutions only cause complications down the road. If the issue is truly salmon, then please reconsider the whole concept of unimpaired flows and concentrate on what may work in the long run. Warily emerging from a drought and with SGMA looming, the region may not survive another water hit.

Let's think of a lush and prosperous Merced enjoying its self-funded water projects for generations to come. Let's not repeat the Owens Valley disaster.

Thank You

David L. Walker, CEO