



December 13, 2016

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
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Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Dear Members of the State Water Resources Control Board,

Thank you for your efforts to update the 20-year-old Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

I am sorry I am unable to be at the meeting this coming Friday December 16 in Stockton.

As is clear, the current outdated plan allows more than half the water needed for the Delta's ecological health to be diverted away for unsustainable Big Agriculture on the west and south San Joaquin Valley. A permanent reduction of exports must happen to protect the Delta. And if the beauty and economy—including ag, tourism, etc.—of the Delta are not in and of themselves are not worth protecting, then surely the influence of the Delta on the entire SF Bay and broader region are. This is a vital ecosystem and a vital life giving resource to several inter-related ecosystems regionally.

Ironically those who wish to kill the Delta ecosystem to bolster unsustainability elsewhere, are in the long run only killing themselves; and in the short run, they'll kill a lot else too. What is the true efficacy of this update to SJ flow standards if water exports from the Delta are not going to be dealt with? The San Joaquin River must reach Chippis Island in order to restore, protect, and preserve the entire estuary. Further, water quality standards must be protected for agriculture, drinking water, municipal discharge, fisheries, and ground water recharge. And you members of the Board must also consider environmental justice communities in terms of drinking water and domestic use. As it stands, Phase 1 Recirculated Draft SED fails to consider environmental justice communities in chapters 5 and 9 (hydrology/water quality and groundwater).

As a faith leader and a patriot, I urge the board to do what is right—sustain the Delta! In so doing, you are sustaining a wonderful, life giving estuary that we are blessed to call our own and you are securing a vital part of California's future sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Frederick W. Weidmann
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