



Dear Dr. Bernstein,

I live in Chico and I have been involved in local and regional water issues for about twenty years. My major area of interest has been long-term water supply sustainability.

I only recently received notification of the workshops for the Phase 2 comprehensive review and update to the Bay-Delta Plan. Of particular interest to me is Workshop 3: Analytical Tools for Evaluating Water Supply, Hydrodynamic and Hydropower Effects.

It has long been my hope that good science would provide the foundation for water supply decisions as the conflict between statewide supply and demand inexorably escalates. In this regard, the CalSim II water supply model is the definitive analytic tool, but in the applications I have been able to review it is fatally flawed by at least one basic shortcoming. It cannot consider the potentially huge effects of climate change.

Climatology is a key variable in any study of future water supply sustainability, but CalSim II is limited to using a single historical 82-year period of climate data. There is no mainstream science that would support that selection. The California Department of Water Resources expects snow packs to decrease by 25 percent by the year 2050, precipitation patterns to shift dramatically, and periods of drought to increase. To my knowledge none of these factors can be integrated into the current model. Consequently, current analytic methodology cannot support the quality of science vitally needed for long-term water supply estimates.

The state desperately needs a state-of-the-art water supply model that can parametrically investigate a range of climate change scenarios around which a politically viable consensus might be built. I urge you to build a strong focus on this critical shortcoming into your Bay-Delta Plan Workshop 3.

Sincerely,

Tony St. Amant  
Chico, CA