

Public Hearing (3/20/13)  
Bay-Delta Plan SED  
Deadline: 3/29/13 by 12 noon

Engineering Services Department  
2220 Magnolia Street  
Ceres, CA 95307  
209-538-5792  
Fax 209-538-5759

CITY COUNCIL

Chris Vierra – Mayor

Ken Lane  
Bret Durossette

Mike Kline  
Eric Ingwerson



March 26, 2013

State Water Resources Control Board  
Charles Hoppin, Chairman  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Subject: Unimpaired Water Flows in the Tuolumne River

Attached is a Resolution adopted by the City of Ceres requesting that unimpaired water flows of 35% in the Tuolumne River not be adopted. The City Council does not feel that there is scientific proof that the additional water during the period under consideration will aid in restoring fish flows. They do feel that the additional flow would have an extremely detrimental affect on agriculture and the local economy.

Sincerely,

Chris Vierra  
Mayor

Cc Casey Hashimoto, General Manager TID  
Toby Wells, Deputy City Manager

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 24**

**TUOLUMNE RIVER FLOW**

**THE CITY COUNCIL**

City of Ceres, California

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June each year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will create "**significant and unavoidable**" impacts to the economy, agriculture, and groundwater basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties; and

WHEREAS, those impacts include approximately \$69 million in economic impacts in an economically distressed region of our state, including \$23.5 million to Merced Irrigation District, \$30 million to Turlock Irrigation District, and \$15.5 million to Modesto Irrigation District each year; and

WHEREAS, the impacts result in a loss of \$4.5 million in energy revenue every year including \$1.5 million to each of the Merced, Turlock, and Modesto Irrigation Districts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement would fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farm land and result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafted groundwater basins; and

WHEREAS, approximately 460 jobs will be permanently lost including 160 in Merced Irrigation District, 200 in Turlock Irrigation District, and 100 in Modesto Irrigation District; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will not benefit native fish populations or promote ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement ignores non-flow alternatives that are less costly and more effective; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement compromises attaining the dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability under SB7x-7.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Ceres does hereby request that State Water Resources Control Board pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Delta planning process and which takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution must prioritize non-flow measures to protect native fish species, such as predation reduction programs, before demanding flow increases that would threaten the economic vitality of these California counties, cities, and small family farms.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Ceres City Council at a regular meeting thereof held on the 25th day of March, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Durossette, Ingwerson, Kline, Lane, Mayor Vierra

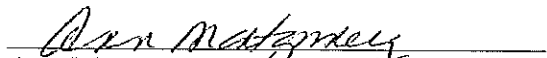
NOES: None

ABSENT: None



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Vierra, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk