



Joe Appleton

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
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February 8, 2010

Re: Comment letter – 2/16/10 Board meeting item: Order Kern River.

The Kern River serves many purposes to those of us living in Kern County. I am in favor to allocate water to the Kern River. Allocating water to the Kern River on a permanent basis will help recharge the aquifer that serves our county and communities. Recharging the aquifer will provide much needed water to our families and farmers in the area. Our farmers and the crops they grow are vital to our community both economically and physically. The reduction in water to our farmers hurts our communities and our economy.

In addition to recharging our aquifer, water in the Kern River will provide much needed water to the trees and vegetation as well as recreational uses to our citizens. The Kern River has become a barren wasteland due to the lack of water. We want to see our river flow and flourish. We want to have a place to take our children to play and learn about the environment they live in. I want our children to learn, see, and use the river that was a focal point to the founding of our communities.

Please approve the draft recommendation to find that the Kern River is not fully appropriated and support the City of Bakersfield's application to run the un-appropriated water down the historic Kern River. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joe Appleton