

commentletters

From: Don Barton <dbarton@goldriverorchards.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 2:42 PM
To: commentletters
Cc: assemblymember.olsen@assembly.ca.gov
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment



To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed Bay-Delta plan is a terrible idea for many reasons:

1. The plan will **not** restore the native salmon population. For whatever reasons—probably related to predatory non-native species in the Delta—the salmon population is already gone. All fish coming up the Stanislaus River (and those are precious few) are planted salmon. No native salmon have come up the river to spawn this year. This means that the insane water management policies that have released millions of acre feet of water since this program began in 2008 have accomplished exactly nothing in terms of saving the fish population.
2. The plan would flush even *more* millions of acre feet of precious fresh water into the rising oceans to the tremendous detriment of agriculture and all of the local economies dependent on agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley. The Water Board's estimate of \$64 million in losses to agriculture is so grossly underestimated as to barely dignify a response—and the reason is that the Board cynically responds that farmers can merely pump water to make up the losses from surface water, all while the State pushes forward with efforts to monitor and eventually regulate how much water farmers can pump from aquifers underneath their own land.
3. The plan is the product of an arrogant state agency which has deigned to shove this down the throats of growers—hard-working farming families like ours **who have been raising crops in California for over 100 years**—simply because they are answerable to no one, including the voters or even elected officials.

Stanislaus County Supervisor Bill O'Brien had it right when he said, "This is not about fish. This is about the twin tunnels, and Jerry Brown's hell-bent strategy to leave his legacy."

I urge you to reconsider this terrible plan. If you insist on moving forward, you will be met with resistance like you have not seen before, for you are now encroaching on the livelihoods and very existence of thousands of farm families—and we will not go down without the fight of the century.

Don Barton

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