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VIA FACSIMILE & EMAIL (916) 341-5620 commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board State Water Resources Control Board P. O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

> Re: Comment Letter on Proposed Plan Amendment and Substitute Environmental Draft of Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan

To the Members of the Board:

My Father, brother and I, together with other members of our family, are long time farmers on the west side of Stanislaus and Merced Counties. In addition, my Father and I are practicing attorneys. My Father has been practicing in Modesto since 1952 and I have been practicing here since 1987. We represent many local farm families. It is from both of these perspectives that we write this letter. We also consider ourselves to be environmentalists and sportsmen. We are mindful of the need to protect the environment. However, we also feel that it is important to protect people and human life as much or more so than the environment.

We oppose the State Water Board's proposal to increase the "unimpaired flows" on the Stanislaus River, the Tuolumne River, and the Merced River. The proposed increase will essentially create an irreversible and negative impact on the surface water supply availability and the groundwater sustainability in our region. Inevitably, this will lead to a loss of jobs, income, tax base, and will negatively affect the economic foundation of the valley and our region in particular. We suggest that the Board staff and Board members give greater consideration to the benefits of alternative proposals and alternative ways of achieving the stated goals without creating such a devastating impact on the people of our area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

JENSEN & JENSEN

Mark R. Jensek