



CITY OF NEWMAN



March 14, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Board Chairwoman
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Dear Chairwoman Marcus,

I'm writing to express grave concerns with the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed actions on behalf of the City of Newman, a community of 11,000 residents in the Central Valley.

As we near the public comment deadline, it is imperative to us that our concerns with your proposal are included in the official record. The City urges you to acknowledge the requests of the numerous cities, school districts, and concerned residents who have voiced their opposition to the Bay-Delta Plan. In an area that is largely dependent on agriculture, a proposal that increases the unimpaired flows of the Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne rivers by 35% would devastate a region that has only just now begun to heal from five years of drought.

The public hearings held in Merced and Modesto this past December provided ample evidence that local stakeholders have been left out of a process that will severely impact every aspect of their lives. Safe and reliable access to drinking water, our economic vitality, and our very way of life would all be jeopardized by your proposed plan.

Given the serious implications of your proposal, there should have been a credible effort to involve us throughout the development phase, but this simply didn't happen. By allowing stakeholders to comment on the plan only after it was released, you have excluded our region from providing valuable local knowledge that could have been used by your scientists and technical experts to create a plan that appropriately balances the competing priorities under your consideration.

To us, "significant, but unavoidable" is more than a phrase – it is a tangible threat and a clear statement of willful disregard for our safety, sustainability, and livelihoods. By failing to include our region in the development process, you have marginalized a community that already suffers from economic challenges and is home to many disadvantage communities primarily comprised of low-income residents.

The City of Newman urges you to give consideration to the voices of our community and revise the current plan to reflect the needs of all the parties involved.

Thank you,

Michael E. Holland
City Manager

Public Comment
2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Deadline: 3/17/17 12:00 noon

