



Councilmember Doug Ridenour
City of Modesto

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July 27, 2018

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

Dear Chair Marcus:

When your Board came to Modesto, over the Christmas holidays, to give the community its opportunity to convey to you our opinion of the Bay Delta Plan, you did not allow for an engaged discussion. Instead, you sat there for hours as over a thousand people told you why your proposed action was more important to the citizen than spending the holidays with their families and friends. You may recall, it was the only opportunity given us to do so. To date, there still has not been any in-depth discussion of the impacts of the State's plan to Modesto's drinking water quality and quantity or on the long-term consequences on our groundwater basins.

The City of Modesto made a strong presentation at the hearing on both our experience with groundwater and surface water use. We made clear to you how our Modesto's groundwater basin had been revived with use of the surface water from the Tuolumne River. Modesto is a shining example of how conjunctive use helps all.

Our water agreement is between the City and the Modesto Irrigation District (MID). Our ratepayers financed the construction of the Surface Water Treatment facilities. Surface water used for irrigation recharges the aquifer, this same treated surface water is used conjunctively with Modesto's groundwater to give our residents exceptional water quality and reliability. This plan works exceptionally well for our ratepayers.

The foresight of the City and Modesto Irrigation District created a long-term viable solution for our community, including Del Rio community, parts of Turlock, Ceres and the small Westside community of Grayson and is now being threatened by this action. If you do not change this proposed plan, and if the courts fail to adjust it appropriately, this will create economic and environmental disaster.

Now your proposed action will jeopardize not only the City, but the entire Central Valley, in what you admit is a suspect model to bring back fish.

Letter to Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
July 27, 2018

Page 2

As when a government does not balance their budget, your numbers don't add up. Your science is flawed and is even questioned by your own State Department of Water Resources. You claim that increased flows, habitat restoration in the rivers and the Delta, and predator suppression is essential to the fisheries. But you only have addressed one mandate: take more water!

You have stated before you can't mandate other agencies' activities. We are not fools here. If you were to raise the call for predator suppression and increased habitat restoration as essential components of restoring the fisheries in the Delta you would elevate the discussion to a more rational plane. In fact, the administration's own Fish and Wildlife Director has refused to approve suppression plans offered by the Irrigation Districts. You have been silent on the larger issue.

You can do so much better. You didn't have to forfeit the good will and openness of the people who live here with highhanded arrogant tactics. It says a lot that this plan has reached this stage. But it is not positive statement.

As a lifelong resident, over 67 years, of the City of Modesto, a police officer over 41 years and now a Modesto City Councilmember, we deserve better. California deserves a transparent statewide Water Plan that actually addresses our shortfalls and infrastructure deficit. That would be a much more fitting legacy for you and Governor Brown. The amended Bay Delta SED simply takes from people who invested in their future in satisfying water needs in areas where neither the state nor federal government kept their word. Less fury and much more common sense is called for here. Please try again.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Ridenour", written over a horizontal line.

DOUG RIDENOUR, City Councilmember

From: Douglas Ridenour <dridenour@modestogov.com>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 11:14 AM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Subject: Comments to Water Board (signed copy)
Attachments: doc02302820180727111609.pdf

Categories: Red Category

Please accept me comments.

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