
From: Kenneth Gibson <kennethgibson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 7:12 PM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Subject: Comment Letter –Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the extensive hearings held by the SWRCB I attended presentations and hearings on Phase 1 of the plan in Sacramento and in Modesto. I was attentive to presentations by University of California scholars and by youth from the Future Farmers of America. It was a great demonstration of the processes necessary for an informed democracy. My concern remains that the requirements of key aquatic species may not be met without careful diligence. We humans too often think of ourselves with too short a point of view. We need to protect our environment beyond the next harvest of alfalfa.

Nevertheless, I support the current proposal for Phase 1 of the Bay Delta Plan. All the water agencies of the Bay Area should manage their water use to accommodate any growth in population while reducing inopportune demands on river resources. They must take urgent steps to develop groundwater storage methods to make up for declines in the winter snow pack resulting from climate change and they must expand the use of recycled water for irrigation of parks and golf courses and the lawns of the elites as well as for industrial uses. All the costs of potable water service, recycled water service, sewer service and water treatment service should be collected from ratepayers, not taxpayers. The price of water should reflect not only its costs but also its scarcity. The state and local communities should not use taxpayer funds to subsidize urban water waste.

By the same token, agricultural interests should not be subsidized in their water use. All the costs of the State Water Project (as well as the CVP and the CRP) should be born by their direct beneficiaries. This includes the

costs of upgrades and repairs consistent with prudent asset management. The SWP should be operated like an independent water agency, issuing its own bonds, not using State of California bond funding or any other state funding. Farmers and Southern California cities, like Bay Area cities should bear the full costs of their non-potable and potable water. They too must manage ground water storage effectively, use efficient irrigation methods, select high value crops that use irrigation water modestly and recycle wherever safe and cost effective.

The surface water storage resources that impair river flows should be used first to meet the minimum in-stream flows needed to maintain remaining varieties of key fish species.

As an EBMUD customer, I look forward to supporting similar, but stronger, flow requirements for the Sacramento River in Phase 2.

Kenneth Gibson
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