

J E N S E N  
[Redacted]  
J E N S E N  
ATTORNEYS

J. WILMAR JENSEN  
CERTIFIED SPECIALIST  
ESTATE PLANNING, TRUST AND PROBATE LAW

March 28, 2013

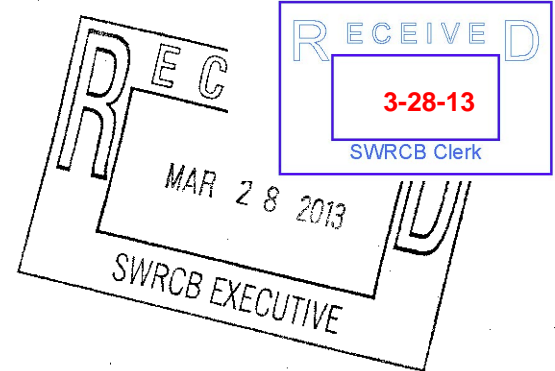
1514 H STREET  
MODESTO, CA 95354  
TELEPHONE 209-529-0791  
TELECOPIER 209-529-0191

MARK R. JENSEN  
**VIA FACSIMILE**  
(916) 341-5620

**VIA EMAIL**  
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

State Water Resources Control Board  
P. O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Attn: Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk of the Board



To the Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

As a citizen of the Central Valley and as a farmer, I am appalled and dismayed at your proposal to release a great deal more water down the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers each year, supposedly to benefit the fish. In my estimation, as important as the fish are, they should clearly fall below the necessity of supporting the citizens of the State of California. The proposed plan would do little for the fish and cause a lot of harm to the food supply, our farming business, and the very livelihoods of the citizens of Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin counties.

Your proposed regulation is opposed by virtually all public bodies in that three county region and most of the citizens as well. I urge you to reverse this pernicious decision and recognize that humans and their food supply take precedence over whatever objectives you may be trying to achieve.

Very truly yours,

JENSEN & JENSEN

Mark R. Jensen

MRJ:ct  
Enclosure

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers to release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June of each year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirements will create "significant and unavoidable" impacts to the economy, agriculture, and groundwater basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties; and

WHEREAS, those impacts include approximately \$69 million in economic impacts in an economically distressed region of our state; and

WHEREAS, the impacts result in a loss of \$4.5 million in energy revenue to the Modesto, Merced and Turlock Irrigation districts only to be offset by rate increases to all power users in Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Counties; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement would fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farm land and result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafted groundwater basins; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1.5% of the jobs in the three county areas will be permanently lost and up to 3.1% of related sector jobs will be lost during drought periods; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirements will not benefit native fish populations or promote ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement ignores non-flow alternatives that are less costly and more effective; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement compromises attaining the dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability under SBx7-7.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the State Water Resources Control Board should pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Delta planning process and which takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution must prioritize non-flow measures to protect native fish species, such as predation reduction programs, before demanding flow increases that would threaten the economic vitality of these California counties, cities, and small family farms.

*Maude Jensen*

(Signature of Entity)

3-27-13

(Date)

Send your signed Resolution and/or your Personal response by March 29<sup>th</sup> to:

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

