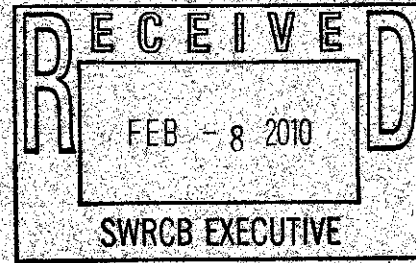


February 3, 2010

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



Re: COMMENT LETTER - 2/16/10 BOARD MEETING ITEM: ORDER - KERN RIVER

Dear Ms Townsend,

As a native of Bakersfield, California and lifetime resident I have witnessed the travesty of stealing all the water from our beautiful river and leaving a dry, ugly river bed.

As a child, I remember swimming in the Kern River at 24th street and swimming in the large swimming pool at Kern Park (presently Hart Memorial Park) which was continuously cleaned by the river water flowing through it similar to the Bidwell Park pool in Chico, California. The pool and the river has been long gone from our lives and we are poorer for the loss. I stood on the Panorama Bluffs and watched the last great flood water rush past just before the dam was built at Lake Isabella. It was an unbelievable site of all the low land turned into a raging river.

I agree with the Staff finding that there is water available on the Kern River. It is unbelievable to me that there is not enough water to run in the river bed and replenish the aquifer as nature and God planned long before we inhabited this area.

I wholeheartedly support the City of Bakersfield's application to run available water down the riverbed. I pray their application will prevail.

As I stated above, running water in the riverbed will help replenish the aquifer, restor the natural environment and provide much needed recreation for an area that desperately needs it. Bakersfield and Kern County are extremely hot in the summer and all our citizens need access to the river with water in it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ramona Holmes".

Mary Ramona Holmes
3810 Century Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93306-1245

661-871-8243