



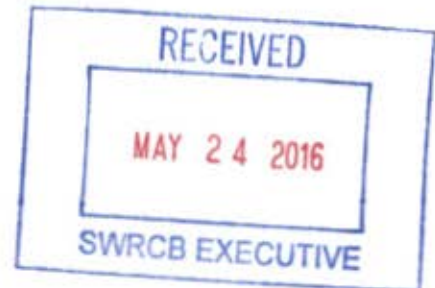
DWR

copy: Bd
EO
OLA

Ted Brandvold, Mayor
City of Modesto
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6200
Modesto, CA 95354
tbrandvold@modestogov.com

May 20, 2016

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



Re: Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Update

Dear Chairwoman Marcus,

I am writing to urge you to consider the impacts of the updated Substitute Environmental Document for the Bay-Delta Program. The Board's plan undermines efforts to secure groundwater sustainability, is unequal in application, and will significantly distress California's most disadvantaged economic region. The State Water Board proposal will devastate the groundwater basins in the Central Valley by reducing surface water recharge opportunities and eliminating surface water deliveries to domestic and agricultural water users.

It's been estimated that the proposed 35% increase in unimpaired flows would cost our area at minimum 350,000 acre-feet of water every year. Irrigation water is the most essential component of groundwater recharge in our basins. It is ironic that after the State's groundbreaking adoption of a groundwater sustainability law, the State agency responsible for water resources proposes to devastate basins in the region where groundwater management will be most difficult.

The State Water Board has also been authorized to monitor and impose groundwater sustainability plans in all of the endangered groundwater basins. With this drastic reduction of available irrigation water, it will be impossible for our area to reach true groundwater sustainability.

I offer our City's strongest opposition to the updated Bay Delta plan. Again, this one decision will have a greater impact on our local area than any other single issue confronting our region and I urge you to reconsider the devastating impacts to our local economy, public health, drinking water, and way of life.

Sincerely,

TED BRANDVOLD, Mayor