

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814



September 22, 2016

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

RE: Substitute Environmental Document for the Bay-Delta Plan Update

Dear Chairwoman Marcus,

We want to thank you for the opportunity to address the water board with our concerns and summarize our specific requests:

- 1) Extend the comment period to 120 days (a 60 day extension). We believe that the complexity of the issue, the magnitude of the impacts, and the absence of engagement with the local community on the plan requires more time for scrutiny and discussion
- 2) We believe all three rivers each requires a board meeting in the largest city along the river. No one size fits all when it comes to rivers and watersheds, and the plan's impacts will vary by community. Merced, Modesto and Stockton each deserve a hearing.

In addition, we appreciate your board's willingness to immediately meet and engage with the impacted stakeholders in our area to discuss the assumptions, information basis, modeling, and conclusions that were contained in the recently released SED.

As you know, our communities have been frustrated at the lack of communication and engagement with board staff and its consultants since the 2012 report was first issued. We believe local information exists that can help lead to a better informed report. To that end, we want to take you up on your offer of having local, meaningful discussions with us.

We would like to have the following set of meetings:

- Groundwater: we want to have our local groundwater managers to have an opportunity to discuss with your groundwater staff and consultants the data, sources, modeling and impacts your consultants and staff utilized when compiling the report, its assumptions and conclusions. We believe local information can better inform your conclusions.

- Drinking water: we want the local drinking water managers and school officials to have the opportunity to discuss with your drinking water staff and consultants, and state's division of drinking water representative, the data, modeling and impacts and sources you used in compiling the report and its conclusions. This is a significant problem for us, and must be addressed.
- Economic impact; we want your economic impact staff and consultant to meet with appropriate irrigation district, city, county, and other local representatives to discuss the modeling and sources, assumptions and conclusions utilized in the 2016 report. We also would like to be sure this part of the report addresses the costs of mitigation of impacts.
- Disadvantaged communities. As you know, this area is one of California most economically challenged. We want to explore with your consultant and staff the assumptions, modeling and impacts that were utilized in this report to address this particularly difficult challenge, and if your recommendations impact these communities in a disproportionate manner
- Agricultural impacts: Agriculture is our number one industry. It doesn't exist without water. We want to discuss with your staff and consultants assumptions, information sources and conclusions.
- Flows and Fisheries. We all share the goal of restoring fisheries. We want to have our local governments, irrigations districts, and their experts discuss with your staff and consultants the assumptions, information, sources and modeling that led to your conclusions. We want to have a clear understanding of how much benefit the proposal will have on the goal of improved fisheries and what other methods we can take to better accomplish those goals.
- Mitigation: your report suggests many methods of mitigation, including fallowing hundreds of thousands of acres of land, conservation, recharging the basins, used of reclaimed water etc., We want to know if your economic assessment include these cost figures and the source of this revenue. Your experts would meet with our city and county economic planners and analysts on this subject.

Again, thank you for your time. We will work diligently with you and your staff to schedule these meetings so that all the issues can be addressed and help inform your deliberative process.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Adam C. Gray
21st Assembly District



Assemblymember Kristin Olsen
12th Assembly District