



County of Fresno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR BUDDY MENDES – DISTRICT FOUR

July 27, 2018

Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter - Revisions to the Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments

Ms. Townsend:

The County of Fresno stands in support of the overwhelming opposition to the proposed amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan (Plan) for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. The County is concerned with the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) failure to adequately address the Plan's impacts to the affected area's local and regional economies as well as its failure to address conflicts with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Fresno County has one of the strongest agricultural economies in the world. This economy flourishes when surface water is available and struggles when it is not. The updated economic analysis in the draft Final SED appears to grossly underestimate the potential impacts to local and regional economies under the proposed Plan. Having firsthand knowledge of economic impacts caused by a reduction in the availability of surface water for irrigation, the County recommends the SWRCB directly solicit and then consider information and analysis provided from cities, counties and water resource management agencies directly affected, who also would have firsthand knowledge.

Sustaining one of the strongest agricultural economies in the world is an ever-increasing challenge as new regulations continue to thwart our efforts. SGMA has the potential to change the very face of agriculture throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Groundwater recharge will be key to balancing sustainable groundwater management and a continued successful agricultural economy. With that, restricting the diversion of surface water in order to maintain unimpaired flows could cripple local agencies efforts to do just that. Failure of the SWRCB to address SGMA in the Plan is careless and irresponsible.

Sincerely,

Ernest Buddy Mendes, Supervisor
Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 4
Co-Chair, Fresno County Sustainable Working Group

c: Jeannie Figueroa, Assistant CAO
Steve E. White, Director, Public Works and Planning

Burrel • Caruthers • Coalinga • Del Rey • Five Points • Fowler • Huron • Kingsburg • Lanare
Laton • Malaga • Orange Cove • Parlier • Raisin City • Reedley • Riverdale • Sanger • Selma

From: Ramirez, Augustine <auramirez@fresnocountyca.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 11:10 AM
To: 'LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov'; WQCP1Comments
Cc: Jimenez, Bernard; Day, Vickie; Figueroa, Jeannie
Subject: Comment Letter - Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments
Attachments: Fresno County Comment Letter.pdf

Categories: Red Category

Ms. Townsend,

Please find attached the County of Fresno's comment letter on the revised Appendix K of the Final Substitute Environmental Document.

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