



July 27, 2018

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
c/o Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: Statement from Merced Mayor Mike Murphy Regarding the Final Draft Bay-Delta Update Substitute Environmental Document

Chairwoman Marcus and Fellow Members of the Board:

The City of Merced, Merced County and all the other communities in Merced and Stanislaus County have sought for over six years to understand and work with your staff, your consultants and others to better understand your report, its assumptions and its conclusions. Unfortunately, you refused to share with us the information, data, and modeling behind your economic, groundwater and drinking water impacts.

We are in a critical overdraft basin. Groundwater supplies the drinking water for 90% of the people in the north Central Valley, and 100% of the people of the City of Merced.

Your report does not address the significant impacts that removing the water will have on recharging our aquifers. Since irrigation water is the principal source of recharge, this is essential information for the groundwater quality and economic impact analysis.

Yet, you did not disclose it.

I do not believe you would withhold such information, and I know your staff and experts did not spend any time discussing them with local authorities responsible for these services, so I must conclude that you did not complete such an analysis in the first place.

The City of Merced could not proceed without such information on any project, let alone one that promises a radically negative, and permanent alteration in the economic and environmental resources of this area.

This is too important of an issue to be adopted without all of the stakeholders being fully informed of the State's assumptions and the data on which it is based.

You have been in possession of the data on the wells that service the public for years. Yours is the agency responsible for keeping those records. You know the critical status of the basins in our area that supply that water. You know your plan removes water for irrigation that your economic analysis states will be replaced by more groundwater pumping, without factoring in the perilous status of our basins. Your report also ignores the other benefit of irrigation, which is the most significant recharge factor for our basins.

Merced is not a wealthy area. Our economic and social future is directly tied to sustainable and high-quality water. Your plan, unmodified, will turn our area into an economic and environmental wasteland. It will result in no irrigation water, no recharge of the aquifer, and destruction of our long hoped for use of the Merced River for drinking water for the people of our cities. Local ratepayers made this use a priority and chose to invest in the private ownership of the new Exchequer Dam. Your plan confiscates this resource without any State reimbursement or regard for local ownership of the resources this investment generates for our community.

We deserve much better than this and I respectfully request that you start over.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike W. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike W. Murphy, Mayor
City of Merced

From: Murphy, Mike <MurphyM@cityofmerced.org>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 11:51 AM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Cc: McLeod, Jill; Martinez, Anthony; Belluomini, Michael; Serratto, Matthew; Pedrozo, Josh; Blake, Kevin; Carrigan, Steve; Dietz, Stephanie; 'Pareira, Lloyd'; 'McDaniel, Daron'; james.brown@countyofmerced.com; 'John Sweigard'; Adam.Gray@asm.ca.gov; 'Heller, Ryan'; Breanne Ramos; MikeLynchConsulting; 'Espinoza, Rodrigo'; O'Banion, Jerry; Lor, Lee
Subject: Comment Letter - Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments
Attachments: SWRCB SED Comment letter.7.27.18 (003) FINAL.PDF
Categories: Red Category

Good morning,

On behalf of the City of Merced, please accept the attached comment letter to the Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments. Should you have any questions or concerns about the attached, please contact me at your convenience.

|
Mike Murphy

Mayor

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