

Carl & Betty Hillberg  
1240 Heathmoel Way  
Turlock, California 95382



March 19, 2013

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
PO Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Comment Letter – Bay Delta Plan SED

As one who was born in Turlock and grew up on a 20 acre dairy and chicken farm on Golf Road I would like to express my dismay of the plan to release such significant amounts of water to the detriment of all the residents of the Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced counties.

Our farm was served by an open ditch connected to Lateral 5. We irrigated our farm with open dirt ditches with a constant battle against gophers and weeds to use our allotment of water in the most efficient manner possible. I also remember going swimming in Lateral 6 when it was a dirt canal.

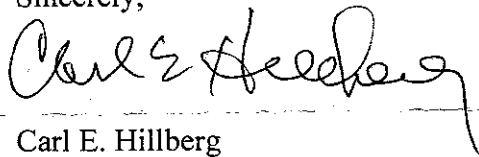
I served in the CBI in World War 2 and returned to complete my education at UC Berkeley. Upon graduation I returned to Turlock to establish a CPA practice which I operated for over 50 years, currently operated by my son. I have had numerous farmer clients and have always been impressed by their efforts to improve their operations and especially their investment in water conservation with poured in place concrete pipelines, sprinkler systems and drip systems. My old farm currently is irrigated with these improvements.

I also was a shareholder and board member of Lake Don Pedro Marina and Mid Valley Marine which developed the marina and recreation facilities at new Don Pedro Dam. We were very conscious of snow and rainfall and their retention behind the dam and I am appalled that you would even consider or let alone approve the water releases that are proposed.

A concerted effort needs to be made to analyze the salmon problem particularly in regards to predators and restrictions on fishing limits before fish are deemed more important than the agriculture and supporting business (accounting) that will be effected by these releases particularly when they will occur in the spring when this is the prime time to store water for later in the season use.

This proposal makes absolutely no economic sense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carl E. Hillberg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carl E. Hillberg