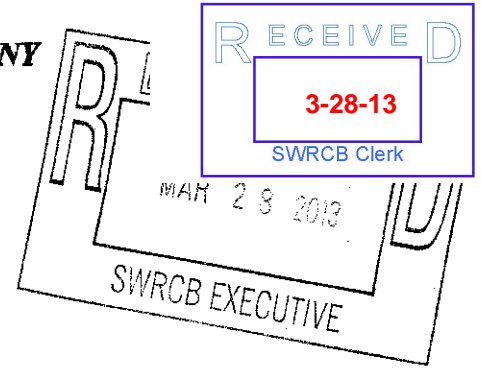


**LONE TREE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY**

5002 W. El Nido Road  
El Nido, CA 95317  
Telephone (209) 722-3997  
Facsimile (209) 722-0373



March 28, 2012

Ms. Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
VIA FACSIMILE 916-341-5620

Attached please find a resolution by the Board of Directors of The Lone Tree Mutual Water Company located in El Nido, Merced County, opposing the SWRCB "SED" proposals requiring the San Joaquin tributary rivers to release 35% of the unimpaired flow from February-June each year.

*George Park*  
George Park  
Manager  
Lone Tree Mutual Water Company

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## **RESOLUTION**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE LONE TREE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY OPPOSING THE STATE  
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT  
REGARDING POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN  
FRANCISCO BAY - SACRAMENTO/SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY**

Whereas Lone Tree Mutual Water Company is a non-profit mutual water company located on the southwest border of the Merced Irrigation District, serving 11,574 acres of irrigated annual and permanent crops which rely on groundwater for irrigation, and

Whereas, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June each year; and

Whereas, the proposed requirement will create "significant and unavoidable" impacts to the economy, agriculture, and groundwater basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced counties; and

Whereas, the Merced groundwater basin is already impacted by falling water levels, and irrigation waters distributed by Merced Irrigation District serve a conjunctive use by contributing to ground water recharge in the basin as well as providing surface water that creates food and fiber to feed the world and providing employment in an already economically distressed region, and

Whereas, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafted groundwater basins as Merced Irrigation District itself and it's in district growers will resort to pumping groundwater, and

Whereas, many of the cities in the North Central Valley including the cities of Merced, Atwater and Livingston depend on groundwater as their source of drinking water

Whereas, the proposed requirement would fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farm land and result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and


Whereas, the proposed requirement does not provide a guaranty that native fish populations will be restored or promote ecosystem restoration; and

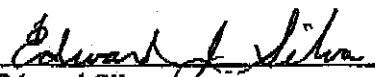
Whereas, the proposed requirement ignores non-flow alternatives that are less costly and more effective; and

Whereas, the proposed requirement compromises attaining dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability under SB7x-7.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the State Water Resources Control Board should pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Delta planning process and takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution must prioritize non-flow measures to protect native fish species, such as predation reduction programs, before demanding flow increases that would threaten the economic vitality of these California counties, cities, and small family farms.

Passed and Adopted by the Board of Directors of The Lone Tree Mutual Water Company this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richie Iest  
President  
Lone Tree Mutual Water Company

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Silva  
Vice-President  
Lone Tree Mutual Water Company