



When I first read the website page concerning the SEP, I thought it said the recommendation is improving data flow from the San Joaquin and improving the water quality for Delta farmers. Reports from the March 20th meeting indicate it is the opposite. Therefore, my comments are:

- We need MORE fresh water released into the San Joaquin, not less. The State Water Board's own Delta Flows report released in August 2010 recommended more fresh water for the Delta!
- We need LESS salt in the San Joaquin River for use by Delta farmers, not more! The Delta farmers have senior water rights. They deserve the freshest water first, not the South San Joaquin valley farmers who have junior water rights, many of whom are mega-corporations and should not be getting subsidized water, let alone the freshest water. It is those desert farmlands that leech out salts and selenium into the runoff water. Save the Delta farms!

I am very, very concerned about the ongoing neglect of the Delta, the Delta Communities and Delta Farmers for the benefit of the San Joaquin Valley cotton and almond farmers. Mega-farmers, giant corporations should not be able to get subsidized water, in my opinion. Nor should they be able to make millions of dollars yearly transferring their subsidized water to L.A. developers at urban rates.

The SWRCB needs to prioritize the communities that live in the Delta first. Other beneficiaries should be able to use the EXCESS water but as your August 2010 report identifies, the amount that has been pumped out since 2000 is too, too much. The fact that the Delta Stewardship Council chooses to reject your August 2010 report does not mean it was not accurate and valid. Please stick to your science and reject the efforts to expand farming for the millionaire corporations. California supplies 80-90% of the world's almonds. Almonds are the most water-intensive crop there is and require year-round water since they are trees. This farming practice and expansion of almond acreage should be stopped, not encouraged. Delta farmlands are fertile and require less water. Delta communities need their fresh water for swimming, recreation. The Delta IS literally my back yard - please protect it.

*Jan*

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