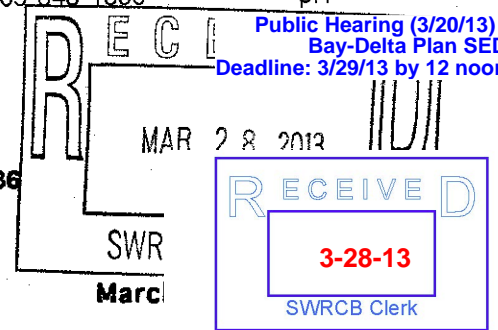


Pat and Richard Bicknell

9608 Rams Hill Ct. • Oakdale, CA 95361 • 1209 848-8470 • Fax: 1209 848-1336



Dear Members of the State Water Board:

Thank you for giving the public an opportunity to hear the proposal to dedicate 35% of the unimpaired water from the Merced River, Tuolumne River and the Stanislaus river from February 1st to June 30th of each year for fish and wildlife. I believe this to be a noble to want to protect the fish and wildlife anywhere they exists. However, if the goal is to protect the fish and wildlife it is important to determine where the fish are having a massive kill off.

Is this a proposal to backfill the Delta with water, because the peripheral cannels are sending so much water to Southern California, which has resulted in massive fish and wildlife loss? The California Peripheral Cannels have screens that trap and kill millions of fish and not just salmon. Require an engineering plan for the Peripheral Cannels that does not harm the fish or stop the water from going to Southern California.

The new proposal to build a third water system or 30-foot pipe to transport water to Southern California will be an additional environmental disaster to the Delta and all of the fish and wildlife in the area. It is time for Southern California to work out a plan (desalination etc.) to develop their own water needs and not take it from sensitive water systems like the California Delta.

The proposal to dedicate 35% of the unimpaired water from the Merced River, Tuolumne River and the Stanislaus River from February 1st to June 30th of each year for fish and wildlife would be an economic and environmental disaster for the Valley residents, farmers, ranchers, business' and our fish and wildlife. We strongly urge to not go forward with this disaster.

Questions we believe need to be considered:

- 1) Has there been a study to look at the number of salmon in our river systems before and after the peripheral cannels?
- 2) Has there been a study to look at the number of salmon that would be lost in our river systems by the building of the proposed 30-foot pipe that would be transporting water to Southern California?
- 3) Has there been a study of how large numbers of seals have negatively impacted the salmon numbers?
- 4) What impact does other countries fishing fleets have on our salmon?
- 5) Do we need to move out our fishing ocean boarders to protect our fish?
- 6) Has there been an independent study as to Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's practices for salmon rearing?

Sincerely,

Pat & Richard Bicknell