

From: Carol Fields
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Topic: Bay Delta Plan Amendment
Date: Monday, December 05, 2016 12:13:47 PM



Dear Friends:

As a native Californian with a long history of supporting environmental causes and experience in river rafting, I wish to applaud your plan to increase the flow of Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and Merced rivers into the San Joaquin River and on to the Delta and the Bay.

It is obvious from the Save the Bay's study document that the rivers, delta, and Bay all the way out to the Farallones Islands are being stripped of their ecosystem capacity to support life.

I would also strongly support increasing the percentage of unimpeded river flow to be 60%, as the minimum to refurbish spawning, salinity, bay and delta life, bay shores, etc.

It would help all of us for the Boards to disaggregate and clarify the data on exactly what kind and size of enterprises conduct farming and otherwise utilize water in the Central Valley, which claim this water—i.e. corporate, mom and pop, etc., and also exactly to inform us what crops are grown on how many acres (whether water-thirsty) and by whom; as well as the amount of water conservation and recycling are currently conducted, and the amount of groundwater typically used, utilization of storm water (if any) to recharge aquifers and fields, plus the health/level of aquifers being utilized for agriculture. Plus an accounting of water pollution caused by fertilizers and livestock. This data is no doubt available, but it needs to be presented to the public in the case of such a hot issue as this one.

The other data that would be helpful for the public to know is the “expected” amount of drought within various boundaries that we are most likely to see in California in upcoming years, based on our current knowledge, and the need to conduct risk management on those aspects of California which are the most vulnerable at this time.

Of course, “facts” are not exactly as exciting as our own emotional testimonies in public comment, but it is vital, as every true farmer knows, to have the facts about soil, water, weather, and competing needs for resources in hand every single year.

People need to know that decisions are made **VERY CAREFULLY**, not based on prejudice, but looking at the whole.

Lastly, there has to be work toward solution and win/win even in a time when it seems quite difficult. That is why I am suggesting another potential resource that we have in California, which the folks farming over the Ogalala aquifer in the center of our country do not have at all: the Pacific Ocean.

We have sun, the potential for offshore and onshore wind, up and down our coast, to power large desalination, AND, if we dare, we can partner with Mexico and develop the same down the Pacific Coast of Baja California. Baja has large deserts next to the sea. What a great export (power and water) Mexico has to offer us—somehow they haven't stumbled upon it. But as a true partnership, it could happen.

Initially, to save our ecosystems, we must **COMPROMISE**, and that means no one gets everything they want. But looking forward, we might, should, and actually must consider a bigger picture for our water and people in California in which we preserve ecosystems, provide drinking water, use water and soil judiciously, and search for additional sources of new water, instead of fighting with all our forests, fish, birds, animals, marine mammals, other people around us, failing to cope with drought, and in some cases, causing permanent damage to the place we call home, not to mention, damaging our sense of strong capacity as the 6th biggest economy in the world.

Carol Fields
Berkeley, CA

Member/Supporter: Sierra Club; CBE; California League of Conservation Voters; Save the Bay, etc.