



January 10, 2017

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Ms. Townsend/State Water Resources Control Board,

I am writing in response to the proposed plan to increase flows from our rivers.

As you are aware, California has experienced severe drought for the last several years. For our citizens, the WORST possible water policy to be proposed and implemented is to further reduce what limited amount of water is available for public use. Even in non-drought years, California needs all the water we can store for our long, hot, dry summer season and for our farmers to produce food that feeds the people of our state, country, and even throughout the world.

California has many reservoirs/sites that provide the ability to store our rain water and snow melt runoff and any other precipitation. It is foolish and short-sighted policy to NOT maximize the collection and storage of our short season of water collection. The task of the Water Resources Control Board should be to enact policy that will provide the greatest benefit to, and is in the best interest of, our citizens and facilitating their quality of life. Currently, and in recent past years, the Board's policy has instead made the lives of its citizens more difficult, expensive, and reduced our California quality of life. These oppressive policies have created hardship on our farmers, who we cannot survive without, and on our citizens. This hardship, regulation, and restrictive use imposed by this Board when it need NOT be, is truly without excuse. Water is obviously an ESSENTIAL component of life, and the misguided policies of this agency is severely effecting the quality of our lives.

I love nature and believe we are to be good stewards of it. But to elevate nature above people is priority gone awry. Providing the needs of our citizens, in this case the essential need of good water, should be the TOP priority. These basic needs can clearly be carried out in a responsible manner that is mindful and respectful of nature and our natural resources. Common sense and wisdom desperately needs to be utilized rather than foolish, short-sighted, politically correct, agenda-driven policies that elevate nature above people and results in hardship and suffering on multiple fronts. I implore the Board to NOT implement the policy of increasing the proposed MASSIVE amounts of flows from our rivers or ANY other policy that would reduce our ability to store the MAXIMUM amount of water to be used by our citizens and farmers, keeping citizen water costs to a minimum (rather than at maximum & continually increasing cost levels) and plentiful availability of this vital and essential resource. We have always been able to accomplish this in decades past. It is only through poor, mismanaged policy that these objectives are not carried out nor able to be achieved.

I want to strongly encourage the Board to adopt wise, common-sense policy to truly enhance the lives of our citizens and farmers while being mindful of and respectful of our natural resources. Rather than one extreme or another, there truly can be a wise balance that is beneficial and healthy for both people and planet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Phillips".

Cindy Phillips
Modesto, CA