

commentletters

From: Fred Staal <fredsr44@yahoo.com>
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To: commentletters
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED



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Dear People of the SWRCB,

You have a difficult job to do regarding the San Joaquin water flow hearings and I am not going to pretend I have any answers. All I can do is offer thoughts that seem most important to me in how you craft your decision:

1. I disagree strongly with the notion now being pitched by corporate-farm and regional growth advocates that any fresh water running to the ocean is "wasted." It is natural and desirable that California rivers run to the sea, and that they DO NOT become just the sum total of all the pesticide and herbicide-laden farm runoff and sewage outfalls from the cities and farmland along their banks.

2. Central Valley and Sierra water consumers (and I am one of those) must understand that it is time to live within their means, water-wise; that it is time to END water demand for continued urban growth and corporate farm expansions.

3. The "irreversible damage" to his district claimed by Representative Bigelow for increased river flow is ACTUALLY the irreversible damage caused to the Central Valley underground aquifer caused by over-pumping it faster than it can EVER be replenished. Over-pumping is permanently destroying the water-carrying capacity of this aquifers, which is a finite resource that has been, and is, grossly overused.

4. Upstream water consumers must understand that their water demands will have a negative impact on downstream consumers: farmland lost to salinity, destruction of wildlife habitat and wildlife, loss of human recreation, etc. Water is a very finite resource and what is demanded and taken by one group of users will now negatively affect others. There is no free lunch.

Thanks for your consideration,
Fred Staal

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