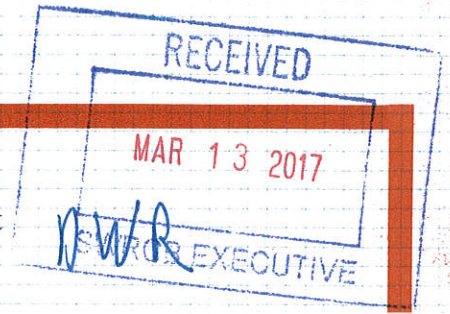


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March 9, 2017

Michael Belluomini  
2900 Parkwood Court  
Merced, CA 95348  
209 723 4146



Public Comment  
2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
Deadline: 3/17/17 12:00 noon



Felicia Marcus, Board Chairwoman  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

**BAY-DELTA PLAN OPPOSITION**

Dear Chairwoman Marcus,

I'm writing to express grave concerns with the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed actions effecting Merced City and County, my home, in the Central Valley..

As we near the public comment deadline, it is imperative to me that my distress over your proposal is included in the official record on the Draft Revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED). Therefore I urge you once more to heed the requests of the numerous cities, school districts, and concerned residents who have voiced their opposition to the Bay-Delta Plan. In an area that is largely dependent on agriculture, a proposal that increases the unimpaired flows of the Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne rivers by 40% would devastate the economy of a region that has only just now begun to heal from five years of drought.

The public hearings held in Merced and Modesto this past December provided ample evidence that local stakeholders have been left out of a process that will severely impact every aspect of their lives. Safe and reliable access to drinking water, our economic vitality, and our very way of life would all be jeopardized by the proposed plan. The engineers and scientists of the Merced Irrigation District (MID) have proposed an alternative to the Bay-Delta 40% runoff increase that

*think, sincerely, why*



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addresses the concerns of fishermen, and environmentalists while reducing the negative impact on agriculture.

Given the serious implications of the proposal, there should have been a credible effort to involve us throughout the development phase, but this simply didn't happen. By allowing stakeholders to comment on the plan only after it was released, you have excluded our region from providing valuable local knowledge that could have been used by your scientists and technical experts to create a plan that appropriately balances the competing priorities under your consideration. This can be partially corrected by thoroughly reviewing the MID plan alternative with your staff and the staff of MID. Meaningful changes to the Bay Delta Plan based on such discussions will improve the process and outcome of your efforts.

To us, "significant, but unavoidable" is more than a term of art – it is a tangible threat and a clear statement of disregard for our safety, sustainability, and livelihoods. By failing to include our region in the development process, you have marginalized a community that already suffers from economic challenges and is home to many minority and disadvantage communities. Simply put: we deserve better.

I urge you to give consideration to the voices of our community and revise the current plan to reflect the needs of all the parties involved.

Sincere regards,

*Michael Belluomini*

Michael Belluomini

Member of the Merced City Council