



March 15, 2017

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100
E-mail: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Draft Substitute Environmental Document to the Bay-Delta Plan

Dear Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

I write to you to voice my strong opposition to the Substitute Environmental Document for the Bay-Delta Plan. Having worked in the agricultural industry in Stanislaus County over the last 40 years, I have no doubt that your plan will have devastating effects on the people throughout our area who depend on the agricultural industry for their livelihood.

I began my career as an agricultural laborer in the 1970s. I now own M.A. Garcia Agrilabor Inc., a farm management and farm labor contracting company. I have multiple clients throughout Stanislaus County and employ approximately 100 employees throughout the year and up to 300 seasonally.

Your plan will not only hurt local farmers, but will also hurt the thousands of farm workers that work hard to make a living here in Stanislaus County and throughout the Valley. Many people have tried to characterize this issue as a fight between corporate agriculture interests and those who are trying to protect our environment. That narrative leaves out not only all of the family farms, but also all of the men and women who depend on farm work to feed their families.

In short, fallowed fields mean fewer jobs. An increase of unimpaired flows to 40% will devastate our agriculturally-based economy and put people out of work. I urge you to consider alternative methods to achieve your environmental goals.

Don't make our local farm workers pay the price.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miguel Garcia".

Miguel Garcia
M.A. Garcia Agrilabor, Inc.
Modesto, CA