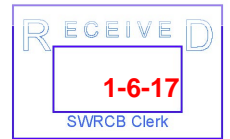


**From:** Chellie Heard  
**To:** [commentletters](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED  
**Date:** Friday, January 06, 2017 9:13:11 AM



Good Morning,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I have lived in Modesto for almost nine years, and prior to that I was raised just down the road in Escalon. This area is my home. Since I have lived in Modesto, I have noticed a drastic increase in crime and the homeless community. I purchased my home at the age of 24 in what, at the time, was a safe and established area. Since then, over a span of nine years, 6 out of the 8 homes immediately surrounding my home have changed ownership at LEAST once. I have found multiple articles, such as used syringes, dirty comforters, trash, and dirty articles of clothing on my property; specifically my front porch. My house has been broken into, and I have had multiple instances where I have found people on my property when I drove up into my driveway.

As I mentioned before, when I moved into my home in Modesto, the problems I mentioned were not an issue. I had done research on the area, spoken with neighbors, and driven by at random times of day and night. Now, several of my neighbors have had their homes broken into or returned home from a week-long vacation to find homeless people living in their back yard.

If this plan is approved, I fear the impact on an already declining city would be devastating. If the City of Modesto cannot provide enough safe drinking water for its citizens, or if there is not enough clean water for bathing or using the toilets, the state if this area will be dire. In working for MID, I have recently spoken with a woman whose water from her personal well has come back from testing three times as "not suitable for human consumption". She is now having to try to connect to City water lines for water to even be able to wash her hands. The more we pump, the more this is going to become an issue. And if we are already unable to provide enough clean water for the people already connected to the city, how will there ever be enough for the people that will be added into the equation?

I am completely in favor of increasing the fish population and decreasing salinity in the Bay, but not at the cost of the basic Human right to clean water. I attended the hearing in Modesto, and I have to be honest, it was difficult to hear people who drove from out of our area speak up in favor of the plan in order to save the fish; especially after listening to our Superintendent explain that our schools already do not have enough clean water to for the kids to drink out of the fountains, and that if this is passed, they will have to use portable bathrooms for the students. So many people outside of our area are fighting for these fish without realizing what this will do to Modesto, Turlock, Oakdale, Escalon, Merced, Riverbank, Stockton, San Francisco, and so many other communities in the area. It is easy to stand up and fight for something you may be passionate about when you are somewhat disconnected; when the negative impacts fall somewhere other than where you live. But it's far from easy to stand up in front of hundreds and explain that you will lose everything. Or to have the impacts fall all around you and to watch your friends, family, and neighbors lose everything; to see more and more homeless as you walk down your street, go to the grocery store, or take your kids to the park; to send your 6 year old to school where you know they will have to use

a portable toilet.

I understand you have a difficult decision to make. I know you have multiple organizations and communities to take into account. But I ask you to please consider the consequences of approving this plan. Please weigh the outcomes of the fish population and the communities and human lives. I know this is not an easy task, but I, along with thousands of others, are hoping and praying you take your time and take our lives into consideration.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read this. Good luck in your research and decision making.

Chellie Heard