



*John A. Borba Jr.*

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January 5, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jeanine Townsend  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

ATTENTION: BAY DELTA WQCP SED COMMENTS, MERCED RIVER

I am John Borba, Grower and Cattleman. I have used Merced River water for 66 years. The Merced River flow an average of one million acre feet per year. MID diverts five hundred fifty thousand acre feet of which 300 thousand is sold to its growers for use on a hundred thousand acres. Two hundred fifty thousand is consumed by people with riparian rights, system distribution seepage and evaporative loss. Four hundred fifty thousand acre feet continue down the river to the Delta for fish and wild life or other uses thereof.

The water is first accumulated in our watershed area. Then contained in our Lake McClure behind our Exchequer Dam, then distributed in coordination with government officials with rules and regulations thereof. Our containment and river rights are Pre-1914 and in accordance with the Law of the Land.

You are presently, on average, receiving nearly half of the Merced River flow and when you want it. Plus the bottom 115,000 acre feet of McClure belongs to you and we deliver 15 second feet to the Merced Wildlife Refuge. MID constructed and paid for the Exchequer Dam containment.

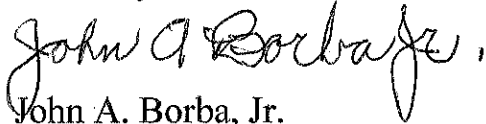
If Exchequer Dam were constructed today, the cost would be One Billion Two Hundred Fifty Million Dollars, (\$1,250,000.00). MID irrigating 100 thousand

acres, also influences with the underground recharge, another 400 thousand acres totaling 1 half million acres with a crop value of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a Billion Dollars. With land, equipment and capital improvement value of 10 billion dollars. We have built these improvements, infrastructure and inputs together for over 100 years. MID has 700 miles of Canal System with all resulting Fish and Wildlife enhancements thereof.

We have had a cattle ranch for 80 years which is also a private Fish and Wildlife Reserve with no fishing or hunting allowed. The large creek within depends on small amounts of MID flow change overflows. During the drought this creek dried intermittently and we loss fish. If increased, Merced River flows were required. We are concerned that would occur more often.

Merced River has the least reliable and the lowest yielding watershed of all major rivers north. It also delivers the highest concentration of salt. 700 ppm after entering the San Joaquin. Merced River flow requirements have been maximized and balanced considering all aspects of this entire project. But we are interested and want to do our part to enhance the life of the Fish with our MID Merced River SAFE Plan.

Sincerely submitted,

Handwritten signature of John A. Borba, Jr. in cursive script.

John A. Borba, Jr.