

From: Ernest Tufft
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Friday, December 16, 2016 9:57:46 PM



I attended today's crowd filled meeting at Stockton Civic Center Auditorium but had to leave before I could read my public comments. So here they are as a letter:

Water Board Meeting in Stockton

Thank you for allowing me to address the CA Water Board. I am Ernest Tufft, a property owner along the Smith Canal, and steering committee member of the Friends of the Smith Canal. I'm a 4th generation NorCal resident. My grandmother used to buy bay crab and shrimp at China Basin in San Francisco. The previous fisheries experts have testified to the collapse of the state's largest wetland ecosystem. Now is the time to act and save the most valuable water resource in California.

As a community, Smith Canal residents have worked hard to clean and improve our previously derelict Stockton waterway. But, pulling out shopping carts and mattresses isn't enough. We need fresh water flow. I have observed first hand from my boat dock,

water quality decline, invasion of warm water oxygen consuming plants, decline of feeder fish and birdlife. These have virtually disappeared over the last 20 years that I have watched from my boat dock.

You as the Water Board must peer into the future and consider your own personal legacies as well as your current responsibility to this great state. The scientific community predicted the ecological disaster caused by the California Aqueduct built in the 1960's, and you are well aware of data presented today that has led to the current collapse of the delta fish and wildlife population. We now also are facing Climate Change drought conditions and of course expanding population, so there are many unknowns for what the future holds, but it's likely less, not more water supply.

I am also a produce truck company owner familiar with the low wage economy of Central Valley farming. I have observed anecdotally massive expansion of corporate

export agriculture in all parts of the state even during these drought years. There is a reckless disregard for ground water resources in the south Central Valley that is heavily dependent on Delta water exports. There is less regard for air and water quality in south Central Valley region, and there is a strong expectation in Los Angeles, Fresno, and Bakersfield, that Stockton and San Joaquin Delta residents should pay for and support these cities unsustainable economies.

Last night we had a substantial rain in parts of Northern California, but there was also a substantial rain within the Los Angeles River watershed. There have been a larger number of tropical El Niño storms. But, most residents of Los Angeles know of this seasonal river by The Terminator movies where there is a chase scene down a concrete storm water drainage system. Sometimes during storms, News cameras focus on the hapless who drowned in flash flood waters of the concrete lined storm drain.

The website for the Los Angeles River, otherwise known as the Los Angeles Flood Control District, describes plans for construction of bike paths and "aesthetic improvements" but much less about improvement for water supply. Indeed most of the Los Angeles River water is flush out to sea. Groundwater is contaminated by industry and there's no apparent effort to change this horrible relationship with nature.

So while television news and the Water Board report rising or falling levels in Northern California reservoirs, there is no such news for the catch basins and ground water recharge off the Los Angeles River watershed. As a way to inspire water value and conservation, measurements of water captured in spreading ponds and catch basins should be publicized.

The Los Angeles River development website describes peak water flow as being greater than the Hudson River. But, this website also describes the water quality of the middle and

lower Los Angeles as being heavily contaminated by industrial pollution. Priority then catching water and improving water quality in SoCal rather than destroying the already diminished NorCal watershed.

If there is to be balance, the Water Board must include all water supplies in South San Joaquin catch basins and groundwater supplies. No further water diversion construction nor increased flows in Northern California should be contemplated until the Los Angeles Watershed is completely restored, catch basins expanded to meet maximum flow capacity so water can be tapped and treated for drinking water supply.

I really think that the Board needs focus on localizing water supply to improve Delta habitat and water quality to build its legacy.

Sent from my iPhone

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