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**From:** Gary Ericksen <farmingary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2018 11:21 AM  
**To:** LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments  
**Cc:** farmingary@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Water Board Plan

Dear Board,

I purchased property in the Modesto Irrigation District in part for the valuable water available in the District which allows my land to produce food we all eat and supplies a living for my family of 4. What makes our land valuable is the water. Without water our land is only dryland, worth a fraction of its value today.

Board plan as presented reduces the value of my land substantially. Will the bank call my loan when they determine their collateral value has dropped? When I'm short water to produce my crop will the bank waive my payment or will these phantom growing fish populations which your plan promises pay to re-establish my crop? The way see it, you are changing the rules in the middle of the game. We catch so little of the rain that our state is blessed with - if you need more water, build more storage. Don't dictate how SF and these water districts manage their purchased and paid assets, build more if this water is so important. Can you see how this water/power grab feels socialistic from my point of view?

The minister of water resources in Singapore is family of a friend who lives here in the Valley. Recently the minister was in California for a visit and commented, "you do not have a water problem, you have a storage problem." It's no more complicated than that.

How is our community going to make a State required groundwater management plan balance when we send all this fresh water to the ocean?

100 years ago before the dam, when we had drought events like we have just experienced, the rivers completely dried up in the summer. I believe a fish can NOT survive or lay eggs in a dry river bed. Do you agree? But I do know these fish are still here. Did they stay out in the ocean an extra year? Fish know when it rains and when the rivers are running right, ask any fisherman, that's when the fish come.

Nature teaches us "survival of the fittest", simply put, the predators are stronger than the salmon. When my great uncle died on the ground in Europe in WWII, they would not just keep throwing men in front of the enemies best position to be killed, they made it their mission to take out the enemy's offense. In the same way, even if your non science based plan did produce more salmon, you are just sending them down river to be slaughtered.

I firmly believe your plan treats a symptom and not the problem. While at the same time making my livelihood and that of my community an "unavoidable consequence". I do not see that as "government of the people, by the people, for the people" (A. Lincoln)

Your plan does not represent my wishes, I ask you to reconsider and develop a science based, common sense approach that will not harm our communities.

Respectfully,  
Gary Ericksen