



2/16/10 Bd. Mtg.
Kern River
Deadline: 2/9/10 by 12 noon

Carlien Worley
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93309

ATTN: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA
95812-0100

COMMENT LETTER – 02/16/10 BOARD MEETING ITEM: ORDER – KERN RIVER

Dear Jeanine,

I strongly support the recommendation to declare the Kern River "not fully appropriated".

I am also writing in support of the City of Bakersfield's application to run available Kern River water down the Kern riverbed.

To put it shortly: the water will be of the most benefit to the most people when running down the now dry riverbed. It is very important for the future economic stability of the southern Central Valley that the aquifer underlying the river and the area southwest of Bakersfield be recharged consistently. The city depends on the aquifer to provide water to some of its people, and surrounding farmers also tap into the underground stores.

We simply cannot continue to overextend our water sources, drawing down the aquifer and also fully using water that should be used in part to replenish it. If the water is allocated to some of the other entities that spoke for it, I fear that it may be sent out of the county or allocated to interest groups that represent only a relatively small portion of the population and economy of the southern Central Valley.

Having the water in the river also help restore the natural environment and provide recreation to the people of the area, which is no small thing, especially since I believe that having the water in the river will help interest people in water and in managing it as a resource. Only encountering water when it comes from a tap tend to disassociate people with the origins and dynamics of water and water management. A living river serves as a reminder that water is a finite and natural resource that should be managed with care and thought.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to write,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Carlien Worley", written over a horizontal line.

Carlien Worley