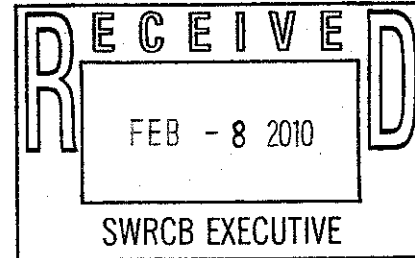


Carolyn Hinds
15120 San Domingo Place
Bakersfield, CA 93306

02/08/2010

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



Re: 2/16/10 Board meeting item: Order- Kern River

I am in support of the City of Bakersfield's application to run the available water down the river bed and agree with the finding that there is water available to run down the riverbed. The restoration of the Kern River in Bakersfield will benefit our city economically, restore riparian habitat and will run water to recharge areas to proactively restore water to aquifers.

My father, who was born in San Diego, told me the story of his first visit to Bakersfield. In the late 1920s early 30s he and his father came to Bakersfield, his father born in Scotland, was a member of the Scottish Highland marching band and they were participating in a parade in downtown Bakersfield. After a long day of travel and a hot afternoon of marching in the parade they settled for a cool night by the Kern River. I thought wow! after all that you traveled all the way out to the Kern Canyon to spend the night by the Kern River. Then it occurred to me, OH YEAH! We used to have a river running through Bakersfield. The river that once graced our city is now a dry sandy river bed, and once stately trees that stand along the river bed are slowly decaying because water rarely touches its banks.

My father moved to Bakersfield and I was born here nearly 50 years ago and I have seldom seen the water run through Bakersfield. I think the year was 2005 when we had abundant rainfall and the river was allowed to flow. My husband and I heard the rumors of how the river had come to life. We had to see for ourselves, and so we packed up our bikes and headed out to the bike path. Low and behold there was life; an explosion of life. The water hyacinths were in bloom and there were bunnies, roadrunners, frogs, squirrels and the flying life and the swimming life and lots and lots of people.

Bakersfield has the reputation of that hot, dry and dusty city. Having a **dry** river bed running through our city has helped to perpetuate negative opinions that continue to cloud our city and retard our economic growth.

I ask the Water Resources Control Board to approve the order finding unappropriated water on the Kern River and to approve the City of Bakersfield's application to run water down the Kern River.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Hinds
(Copy with signature sent via mail)