



City of
Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California

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March 6, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Board Chairwoman
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Chairwoman Marcus,

I'm writing to express concerns with the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed actions on behalf of the City of Los Banos, a community of 39,359 residents in the Central Valley.

As we near the public comment deadline, it is imperative to us that our concern over the proposal is included in the official record on the Draft Revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED). Therefore we to urge you once more to heed the requests of the numerous cities, school districts, and concerned residents who have voiced their opposition to the Bay-Delta Plan. In an area that is largely dependent on agriculture, a proposal that increases the unimpaired flows of the Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne rivers by 40% could potentially devastate a region that has only just now begun to heal from five years of drought.

The public hearings held in Merced and Modesto this past December provided ample evidence that local stakeholders have been left out of a process that will severely impact our region. Safe and reliable access to drinking water, our economic vitality, and our very way of life could all be jeopardized by the proposed plan.

Given the serious implications of the proposal, there should have been a broader stakeholder's process throughout the development phase. By allowing stakeholders to comment on the plan only after it was released, our region has been excluded from providing valuable local knowledge as part of the environmental review process.

I urge you to give consideration to the voices of our community and revise the current plan to reflect the needs of all the parties involved.

Sincerely,



Mayor Michael Villalta

Public Comment
2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Deadline: 3/17/17 12:00 noon

