



January 12, 2017

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Dear Ms Marcus and members of the State Water Resources Control Board,

Ballico-Cressey School District is a small rural district serving nearly 500 students and their families in Northern Merced County. This district has been a leader in the region for one to one technology based learning for the past 5 years. Thanks to programs like sports, Taiko, speech, Pentathalon and 4H our students are well prepared for life and go on to be leaders in high school and beyond to improve their communities, countires and our world! We even have five 6<sup>th</sup> graders who will be representing California at the Presidential Inaguration this January as a result of winning an national competition.

Ballico-Cressey School District is very concerned with your Draft Revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED) supporting Phase 1 of the Board's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. If approved, your proposal requiring the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers to dedicate 40 percent of unimpaired flow to fish and wildlife would cause irreversible harm to our region.

The Revised SED will not only financially harm our region's farmers, manufacturers and businesses, but it will directly harm public entities like ours who provide educational services to our local ag community. We are an agriculturally based community; when actions are taken that directly harm the largest economic sector in the region, everyone will be directly impacted.

Beyond devastating our community by demanding 40 percent unimpaired flows from February 1st- June 30th annually, your staff is proposing taking over control of our locally paid for, built and operated Don Pedro Reservoir. Don Pedro was built specifically to allow our community to survive a prolonged drought, similar to the one we are currently in, but the Revised SED now limits the amount of water available to our community.

Our district recently passed its first bond to improve our 50 year old campus. If passed, your action would deplete local property values so much that it would likely be the demise of our district all together. Please consider the devastating impact your Revised SED will have on all businesses within our community.

Sincerely,

Bryan Ballenger, Superintendent  
Ballico-Cressey School District

cc: Frances Spivy-Weber, Vice Chair  
Tam Doduc, Board Member  
Steven Moore, Board Member  
Dorene D'Adamo, Board Member  
Josh Weimer, [jmweimer@tid.org](mailto:jmweimer@tid.org)  
SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

**List of Submitters: Ballico-Cressey School District**

*The following people submitted the same form letter or a letter of similar text. The State Water Board received a total of 5 copies of this letter.*

<b>Commenters</b>	<b>Submitted by:</b>
Ballico-Cressey School District-Superintendent	Bryan Ballenger
Ballico-Cressey School District-Trustee	Ginger Chance
Ballico-Cressey School District-Trustee	Jana Nairn
Ballico-Cressey School District-Trustee	Seanna Johnson
Ballico-Cressey School District-Trustee	Tom March