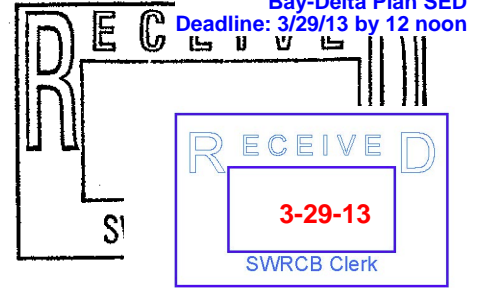




MIKE LYNCH



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

March 25th, 2013

Dear Ms. Townsend

I want to respectfully register my strong disagreement with the proposal to increase by 35% the unimpaired flows from the Tuolumne River. This proposal is premature, unfair and poorly crafted.

The Board is aware of the economic conditions in the San Joaquin valley. We lead the state in unemployment, home foreclosures and lack of economic opportunity. Our health indicators trail the rest of California. Our education levels also are significantly behind.

The most significant resource in this part of California is the inexpensive water and power that is available because of the forethought of area residents in constructing power generating dams and reservoirs. State taxpayers did not finance these facilities. Local users of the dams and reservoirs pay the bonds for construction and the costs of operation.

The proposal would significantly and negatively impact our area's greatest economic incentive, inexpensive and available water and power.

We can't afford it.

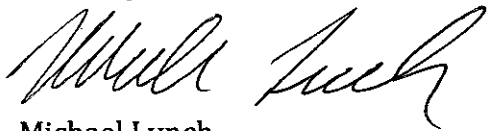
The elephant in the room is the long delayed need for California to invest in water storage infrastructure. Since the last major water storage facility opened in California our population has grown by 30% while our storage capacity has increased by only 1%.

This proposal would divert resources from one of the poorest areas of the state to meet statewide needs that California has failed to address, despite voter approval of billions of dollars in bond money for improvement of water quality and quantity.

Residents in the valley already face enormous financial and environmental challenges. Your proposed action makes meeting those challenges that much harder.

I would strongly suggest the Board delay action on this item until it can hold public meetings in the Turlock and Modesto area to see the impact of this proposal first hand, and to hear from those who have most to lose by your action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Michael Lynch
Government Relations Committee chair
Turlock Chamber of Commerce