

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF MERCED, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



In the Matter of

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE
STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD'S DRAFT
SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-33

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June each year; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will create "significant and unavoidable" impacts to the economy, agriculture, and groundwater basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced counties; and,

WHEREAS, those impacts include approximately \$69 million in economic impacts in an economically distressed region of our State, including \$23.5 million to Merced Irrigation District, \$30 million to Turlock Irrigation District, and \$15.5 million to Modesto Irrigation District each year; and,

WHEREAS, the impacts result in a loss of \$4.5 million in energy revenue every year including \$1.5 million to each of the Merced, Turlock, and Modesto Irrigation Districts; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement would fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farmland and may result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafted groundwater basins; and,

WHEREAS, an estimate of approximately 460 jobs will be permanently lost including 160 in Merced Irrigation District, 200 in Turlock Irrigation District, and 100 in Modesto Irrigation District; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will not benefit native fish populations or promote ecosystem restoration; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement ignores non-flow alternatives that are less costly and more effective; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement compromises attaining the dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability under SB7x-7.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the State Water Resources Control Board should pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Delta planning process and which takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution must prioritize non-flow measures to protect native fish species, such as predation reduction programs, before demanding flow increases that would threaten the economic vitality of these California counties, cities, and small family farms.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Merced County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the efforts of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority by opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that supports potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan.

I, JAMES L. BROWN, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Merced, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly introduced, passed and adopted by said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 12th day of March, 2013, by the following vote.

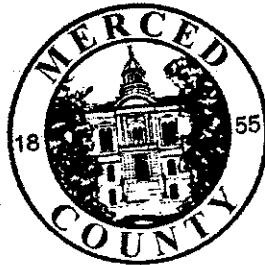
SUPERVISORS:

AYES: Deidre F. Kelsey, John Pedrozo, Hub Walsh, Linn Davis, Jerry O'Banion

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of this Board this 12th day of March, 2013.



JAMES L. BROWN, CLERK

By Victoria Bryan
Deputy