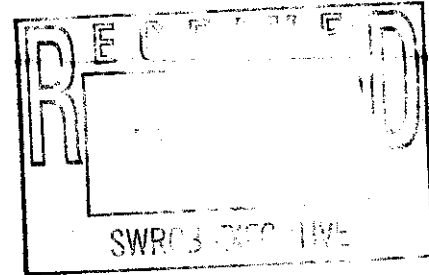


February 3, 2010

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

**Re: Comment letter-2/16/10 Board meeting
Item: order—Kern River**



Dear Ms. Townsend,

It is my understanding that there is water available in the Kern River, based on information provided by the staff of the State Water Resources Board. I agree with that finding.

Further, I support the City of Bakersfield's application to run available water down the river bed. Running water in the river bed will help replenish the quickly depleting aquifers, restore the natural environment and provide recreation.

As a child, I swam and played on the banks of this river. I have continued to live and work in Bakersfield all my life and I have watched as the Kern River has diminished from a once naturally-flowing stream that has historically shaped the geography of the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley to what is now a sandy, sterile riverbed. Where there were waterfowl, including ducks and thousands of shorebirds, there are now few such birds, trying to eke out an existence on a few remaining potholes of water. Where there were plentiful fish such as bass and pan fish, providing recreation for many people, there is now only dry dirt.

The value of even a small bit of water returning to the Kern riverbed would be inestimable in terms of restoring our underground water supply, providing much-needed recreation for a growing population and restoring a once-beautiful riparian habitat.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of my request to allow available water to once again flow in this ancient riverbed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Bray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Bray