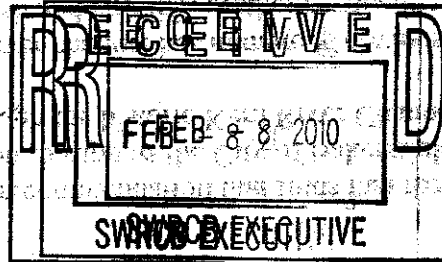


Sarah and Dirk Baron
6220 Copperwood Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93306

State Water Resources Control Board
Attn.: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



February 5, 2010

Re. **Comment Letter – 2/16/2010 Board Meeting Item: Order – Kern River**

- In support of draft recommendation that the Kern River is not fully appropriated
- In support of City of Bakersfield application to run the unappropriated water through the historic Kern River Channel

Dear Board Members:

We are writing to urge you to approve the draft recommendation that finds that the Kern River is not fully appropriated. We also urge you to support the City of Bakersfield's application to run the unappropriated water through the historic Kern River Channel.

Returning unappropriated water to the historic river channel has numerous obvious benefits including to the environment, habitat, fish and wildlife, aesthetics, quality of life, recreation, and the economy of Bakersfield.

Water running through the historic river channel is not "lost" or "wasted". It will infiltrate into the sandy riverbed and recharge our aquifer. Replenished groundwater will restore more natural groundwater flow patterns from under the river bed into other outlying parts of the basin. All water users in the basin will benefit from the aquifer recharge.

Running the unappropriated water through the historic Kern River channel is therefore truly a win-win proposition and all will benefit in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration

Dirk Baron
Sarah Baron