

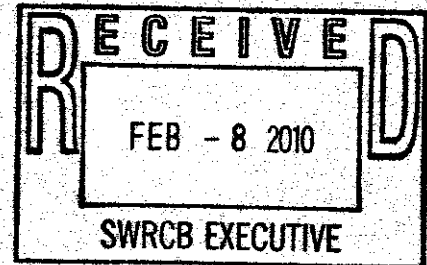
2/16/10 Bd. Mtg.
Kern River
Deadline: 2/9/10 by 12 noon


READ IT!

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February 4, 2010

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



SUBJECT: Comment Letter - 2/16/10 Board Meeting
Item: Order - Kern River

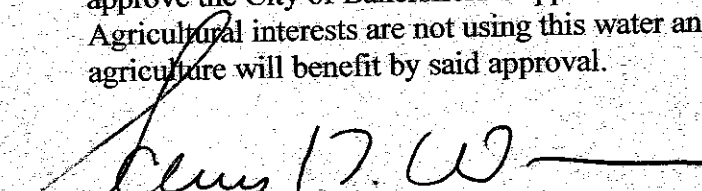
This is a follow-up letter restating my e-mail of this date, 2/4/2010:

It is my understanding that your staff has determined that there is water available on the Kern River and that the City of Bakersfield has applied to have that water run down the riverbed through the city. I support that application and ask that your Board approve it.

The Kern River was once a valuable asset to the residents of the City of Bakersfield as an aquifer supplying needed water for the necessities of life. Water flow agreements have usurped the natural flow of the river to the point that only a dry riverbed remains. The underground aquifers have been increasingly stressed affecting nearby wells and the normal subterranean groundwater migration. It is of critical importance that this mound of water under the riverbed be restored and that the river be allowed to flow uninterrupted once again through the city.

I have studied and reported on the effect of waterways through cities. It is indisputable that a "wet highway" in a natural setting is an invaluable attribute. It awakens the community by revitalizing its tax base, providing environmental assets, improving recreational opportunities, and establishing a riparian habitat for wildlife. In addition to supplementing the available water supply for life-sustaining necessities, it provides a visual and physical milieu that improves the health and well-being of those who have access to it.

In my opinion, and it has been proven in countless communities, there is no nobler or more valuable use of natural water than to refresh a community. I ask your Board to approve the City of Bakersfield's application for the available Kern River water. Agricultural interests are not using this water and, in fact, the entire community including agriculture will benefit by said approval.


Schuyler T. Wallace