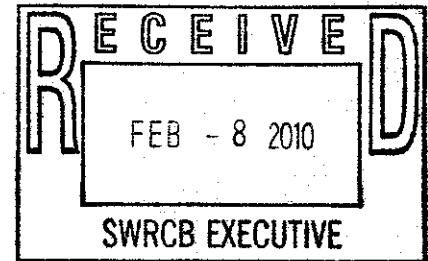


GREATER BAKERSFIELD VISION 2020

February 2, 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

The community of Greater Bakersfield strongly supports water in the Kern River through the downtown to Beach Park. Evidence of this support stems from a year 2000 community visioning process, --Greater Bakersfield Vision 2020 -- in which over **13,000 residents** participated.. The process included an analysis of strengths and weaknesses, a visioning of the preferred future for the year 2020, and the development of an action plan, complete with strategies and specific action items. This Action Plan, addressing several key aspects of the Vision, was released back to the community for implementation in January 2001.


The important Quality of Life plan contains several strategies specific to the Kern River, notably **Strategy #9 – “Keep water in the Kern River year-round through Beach Park.”** Among the action items is: “Support Governor’s \$23 million Kern River Restoration project to keep water in Kern River through Beach Park.”

Another relevant strategy is Strategy #8 – “Provide additional recreational and other activities along the Kern River.” Action items for this strategy include: “Provide easier public access to the Kern River bottom at Beach Park by creating entrances to safe areas of the river; Improve river use for recreation with barbecues, chess tables, etc in parks along the river; and Provide maps and parkway information at Kern River Parkway access points.”

Strategy #7 – “Leverage Proposition 12 and 13 funding to create a greenbelt corridor along the Kern River with a bike path from Lake Ming to Buena Vista Lake” includes this action item: “Develop a green, landscaped river shoreline along the Kern River at Beach Park that includes recreational use.”

The complete Action Plan and documented process may be viewed online at www.bakersfieldvision2020.com. We encourage you to consider the desires of the community of Greater Bakersfield . in acting on the City of Bakersfield's application to run available water down the Kern River riverbed.

Very truly yours,


Sheryl Barbich, President
Greater Bakersfield Vision 2020