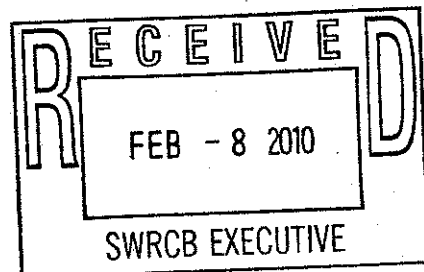


commentletters - COMMENT LETTER 2/16/10 Board Meeting Item: Order - KERN RIVER

From: <hamiltoncd@aol.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 2/8/2010 10:10 AM
Subject: COMMENT LETTER 2/16/10 Board Meeting Item: Order - KERN RIVER

Feb. 8, 2010

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



To Whom It May Concern:

I support the City of Bakersfield's application to run available water down the riverbed **IF** the staff finding is correct—that there is indeed water available on the Kern River. As a long-time resident of Bakersfield, and a user of the bike and running paths, I believe that running water in the riverbed will help replenish the aquifer, restore the natural environment and provide additional recreation. I also believe that some of the dust problem, quite severe on windy days, will be somewhat alleviated by water in the riverbed, helping hundreds, if not thousands of people with severe breathing problems on our way-too-numerous "unhealthy" air quality days.

A supporter of agricultural jobs and a healthy economy, as well, I would also like to see any possible deal worked out whereby local Valley farmers in need of water would still be able to access said water at *affordable* rates *after* it flows down the riverbed, assuming said farmers are using the latest and most efficient water-saving methods to water their crops. There seems to be some controversy which I am not entirely educated about regarding the effect on farmers due to this move by the City of Bakersfield--I support any compromise that turns into a win-win deal for both residents and farmers. Not being an expert, and assuming that there are intelligent non-partisan experts out there who can be consulted and relied upon to offer sound advice, I do support forward-thinking decision-makers who take the needs of all players into consideration for the highest and best benefit of all of us.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Hamilton (mailed letter with original signature to follow)

Susan B. Hamilton
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