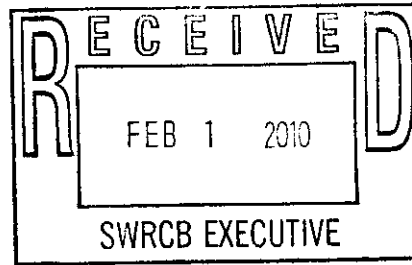


Ms Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Jan 23, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to a column in the Bakersfield Californian on Jan 22. Ms Lois Henry seems to believe that the city of Bakersfield is entitled to have a free flowing river through its boundaries. I vehemently disagree. Here's why.

The city of Bakersfield lies in one of the driest areas of California. Its population has continued to grow, despite no readily apparent source of water to support such growth. It has this riverbed, but from my crossings of it, it's almost always dry. She wants to see water flowing for 4 reasons: 1) replenish the aquifer; 2) restore the natural flora and fauna; 3) create more recreation; and 4) add beauty. I would argue that the aquifer must stand on its own; the natural flora and fauna have adapted to the desert conditions, and weren't that great to begin with; that this will NOT become a recreational paradise with a meager flow; and that Bakersfield was not meant to host any beauty....

On the contrary, I see this as yet another 'water grab' by those in Southern California who believe that water is their RIGHT, even if they have to steal it from someone to the north or east! Maybe one of these years, they'll realize that the answer lies in desalinization, and the 'west' is the answer. In the meantime, they continue to support their lawns, clean cars, fountains, and other blatant wastes of a precious resource. Do not believe the pandering politicians of both parties who blame the environmentalists for their problems! The problem is priorities; I place agriculture before fountains, and washing cars, and watering lawns and fancy landscapes. Ms Henry apparently believes that Bakersfield residents should be able to overwater, wash their vehicles daily, and ignore agriculture's legitimate concerns because, after all, Bakersfield is ENTITLED to that excess water that no one else is using! The politicians from both parties have demanded more water to be delivered from the wetter north to the drier south, but until the south demonstrates some responsible approach to water use (including a premium pay), I'm solidly against changing the status quo. If anything, I'd suggest charging more for water in those areas that are not self-supporting, and have to import water from another area. We need to treat it as the precious resource that it is!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted Johnson
19813 Breeze Pl
Tehachapi, CA 93561