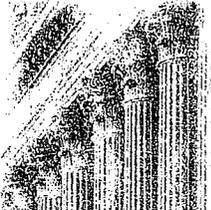


January 9, 2008



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Delores Brown
California Dept. of Water Resources
Chief, Office of Environmental Compliance
901 "P" Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Draft EIR: Monterey Amendment to the State Water
Project Contracts, etc. ... Volume I...SCH #2003011118

Dear Ms. Brown:

Until recently the undersigned was a part owner of several hundred acres in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and has, for over 30 years, been actively participating in the environmental enhancement and restoration of that part of California. I have observed first hand on numerous occasions the operation of the Kern Water Bank under the Kern Water Bank Authority since the mid-1990s.

I have been consistently impressed by the attention paid by the Kern Water Bank Authority to sensitive habitat and special-status terrestrial biological resources at the Kern Fan in furtherance of the Kern Water Bank Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (executed October 2, 1997). They have conscientiously avoided significant adverse impacts on these resources, and have enhanced not only the biological diversity of the area, but the numbers of all species, both of special concern and otherwise, by virtue of their activities. They have consistently been willing to provide opportunities to residents of Kern County and others to view and appreciate the species and habitats which they have been protecting and enhancing.

While I cannot support it with hard data, it is quite logical that the mitigation of spikes in the water supply of the Southern San Joaquin provided by the Water Bank, both on site and elsewhere in the farming community, has enabled populations of many species to remain much more stable, thereby minimizing the "boom and bust" population cycles for the benefit of all concerned.

In closing, I would ask that anyone viewing the operations of the Kern Fan Element over the past 20 years, divided almost equally between operations being taxpayer funded and operations being user funded, to consider the differences in results. Not only has society gotten a great deal more bang for the buck under the current operation structure, but the wildlife so important to the area has fared far

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better as well. I urge you to retain the status quo for operational authority of the Kern Fan Element in the hands of the Kern Water Bank Authority.

Sincerely,



William K. Rogers

WKR/wlr