



“Comment Letter – Bay Delta Plan SED”

What has happened to our rivers? I moved here from Southern California to Turlock and discovered the Tuolumne river and was thrilled to have a river close to me that I could enjoy boating and fishing on and in. I bought a 12 foot shallow draft boat with a small motor to go in the river. I took off at Fox Grove park and found that I had to get out and push my boat up river in several locations because the river was too shallow to use my motor and in some places I had to drag the boat over rocks because 4 inches of water was not enough for the boat to float in. I could not make it to the Hickman overpass before giving up. I could not believe that such great rivers that use to be able to have barges float up from San Francisco could not support a small boat anymore. This is very disappointing. I hear about the plight of the salmon because of the low water and have to laugh at the fish limit signs because there are a very limited amount of fish to catch. There use to be thousands of fish traversing these rivers. The low water does not allow it any more from what I see. If you dig in the local history books about the rivers in the valley you will see that there was an abundance of fish due to the unimpaired water flow. Unless things change the river will loose as well as all those who depend on it. History has proven that. What happened to the great projects to improve the river? I read there was an effort to do this in 2008 but has since died. It seems that the only reason there is any deep spots in the river is from the past dredging concerns. What about the rest of the rivers. It is sad that a kayak trip down these rivers in spots is too shallow in to even float over. True we need irrigation to feed the farm crops and we have done a great job to provide that, but better crop management is needed to better regulate the need for the irrigation. We should not sacrifice the river or its flow to provide that. The valley is a major source of our worlds food because of the rivers, but if we loose the rivers because the flow in the river is sacrificed than we all loose. We need to keep a greater flow in the river to keep the balance. This only makes sense. Again I am new to the area but from reading the history of this great valley and seeing the changes today it makes me wonder what is happening. We may not be able to go back and change the past but with concerned effort of all those involved we can change the outcome of the rivers future.

Gary E. Sims
1634 Arlington Ct
Turlock, CA 95382
951 907 1446