



WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

TBWA

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January 9, 2008

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

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Tulare Basin Wetlands Association (TBWA) is an association of over 40 owners of private wetlands in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. TBWA was formed as a not-for-profit corporation expressly for the purpose of seeking affordable water supplies for the wetlands we sustain.

We have watched with interest the development and operation on the Kern Fan. Some of us have had the opportunity to visit the Kern Fan as administered by the Kern Water Bank Authority and have been very impressed with the habitat development on the land. Further, we have noticed a correlation between an improved fall flight of waterfowl and shorebirds in years when the wetland habitat on the Water Bank is extensive. We believe this correlation to be more than accidental, and that having the resource in the area for migratory birds and local wildlife is a benefit to all.

We urge you to continue the status quo at the Kern Fan, and believe that its operation has and will continue to enhance the water directly and indirectly available for many habitat interests in the Southern San Joaquin. This becomes more apparent every year as it becomes more and more difficult for us to maintain the few remaining wetlands in the area.

Thank you for this opportunity to address thoughts to you:

Sincerely,

C. Jeff Thomson
Chairman, TBWA

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