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Walnut Grove, CA 95690
February 15, 2015

Mr. Jacob McQuirk
Supervising Engineer, Bay-Delta Office
CA Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Mr. McQuirk:

IS/MND Findings on Emergency Barriers

Being a long-time resident of the Delta, I look to your Findings with an eye for the truth. The State of California and the Water Resources Department have looked to our area as an answer to resource problems.

When tax money built flood-control dams in the less-populated past, they have become the tool of satisfying a State with thirsty farmers and spoiled pool owners of a desert to our south, holding water in them during major rainfall and not releasing until the last minute to flood the lowly "river rats" downstream, destroying levees and creating havoc. I lost a loved one fishing a levee break two years after the break in Miner Slough opened. Poor water resource management and poor maintenance were part of the cause of my young nephew's death, as usual, with no consequence to the State. This disregard has continued with the decline of ferry service, spending \$3.5 million on a new ferry that is so unreliable it doesn't run at full service.

The reason people live with the problems I have stated are nothing compared to the years of enjoyment I have had with the beauty, solitude, and lifestyle I have found on the river. This is threatened by the State of California and I am served with seven "findings" from an agency that doesn't have any idea

about the cause of "substantial adverse effects" on human beings. Just the initial study with small craft not obeying no wake zones have caused dock damage and bulkhead problems in our area. The increased large barge and tug traffic will affect our docks and banks. The loss of natural river and tide flow is a part of an ecosystem that has been going on a lot longer than your survey.

I don't know anyone from the State that has talked with anyone personally that actually lives on the river. My home that sits on the back slough will be affected more than most. I have worked most of my life to live where I live and be able to enjoy my home. When it is threatened by the State with a statement such as "not cause substantial adverse effects," I question your findings and motives. The State closes down our island access (State Hwy. 84) at their will, and now our water flow with "less than substantial interest" on its effect on lives and property values of the people that are directly affected.

Sincerely,

Buddie Young

Buddie Young
Vietnam Vet
Concerned River Rat