

# Merle Haggard, Kern River

I'll never swim Kern River again.  
It was there that I met her.  
It was there that I lost my best friend.  
And now I live in the mountains.  
I drifted up here with the wind.  
And I may drown in still water,  
But I'll never swim Kern River again.  
I grew up in an oil town,  
But my gusher never came in.  
And the river was a boundary  
Where my 'darlin' and I used to swim.  
One night in the moonlight  
The swiftness swept here life away.  
And now I live on Lake Shasta and  
Lake Shasta is where I will stay.  
There's the South San Joaquin,  
Where the seeds of the dust bowl are found.  
And there's a place called Mount Whitney  
From where the mighty Kern River comes down.  
Well, it's not deep nor wide,  
But it's a mean piece of water my friend.  
And I may cross on the highway,  
But I'll never swim Kern River again