

## Kern River

Dave Alvin

I'll never swim Kern River again  
It was there that I met him  
There that I lost my best friend  
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

He grew up in an oil town  
But that gusher never came in  
And the river was a boundary  
Where my darling and I used to swim

One night in the moonlight  
The swiftness swept his life away  
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 Mt. Whitney  
From where the mighty Kern River comes down

Now 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

I'll never swim Kern River again  
It was there that I met him  
There that I lost my best friend  
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'll never swim Kern River again  
It was there that I met him  
There that I lost my best friend  
Now I live in the mountains  
I drifted up here with the wind  
And I may cross on the highway  
But I'll never swim Kern River again  
No, I'll never swim Kern River again