



March 12, 2015

(3/17-18/15) Board Meeting- Item 8
Emergency Regs- Fisheries
Deadline: 3/16/15 by 12:00 noon



Felicia Marcus,
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
and Members
c/o Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Proposed Resolution to Update and Readopt a Drought-Related Emergency Regulation for Curtailment of Diversions Due to Insufficient Flow for Specific Fisheries

Dear Chair Marcus and Members:

Sierra Club California supports the State Water Resources Control Board's (Board) actions to adopt emergency regulations to curtail diversions on the Deer, Mill, and Antelope Creek to prevent degradation of naturally-produced salmon and steelhead.

Deer, Mill, and Antelope Creek are some of the last places where naturally-produced salmon and steelhead call home. These undammed streams support these species' continued existence in a natural state, which produces stocks that have better viability and resiliency than hatchery-produced fish. This viability is necessary for these species to continue to be able to adapt to the impending challenges they face as their status is further threatened by anthropogenic climate change. The Board's actions will preserve this important public trust asset for 2015.

This drought presents many difficult choices for many people. Curtailment for people is never easy, and we would like to recognize the Board's efforts in preserving minimum health and safety standards. This part of the proposed regulation will allow California to balance the Human Right to Water with its obligations under the Public Trust Doctrine.

The Emergency Regulation for Curtailment is an unfortunate necessity for California in this fourth year of drought. We feel the Board has adequately balanced the needs of the environment and people, and we support this curtailment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KJ".

Kyle Jones
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California