
Subject: Email From Virginia Van Kuran

From: Virginia Van Kuran [<mailto:virginia@vankuran.com>]

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 8:00 AM

To: commentletters

Subject: Comment Letter – Updated Bay Delta Plan SED

Dear California State Water Board,

I understand that you will be considering an updated Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan in February. As a strong supporter of sustainable water flow to the Delta and member of the Tuolumne River Trust (TRT) I encourage you to consider the following information the TRT has compiled about the importance of unimpeded water flow to the Delta -

- At least half of the San Joaquin River's natural flow should reach the Delta during the first six months of each year. Flows in the summer and fall should be sufficient to maintain fish and wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities.
- Low river flows impede fish passage, concentrate pollutants, raise water temperatures, decrease dissolved oxygen, and eliminate migratory clues.
- Historically, populations of spawning salmon may have exceeded 400,000 fish in the San Joaquin River Basin, but in many recent years that figure has plummeted to less than 2,000 fish.
- Salmon are a keystone species, providing food for other animals and transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. More than 100 species depend on salmon.
- The commercial salmon fishery in California is on the brink. The salmon population was so low in 2008 and 2009 that the commercial fishing season had to be cancelled.
- The Bay-Delta forms the West Coast's largest estuary, providing habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. It serves as a major stopover for the Pacific Flyway and as a migration path for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon traveling to and from their home streams to the Pacific Ocean.
- Up to 6.8 million acre-feet (2.2 trillion gallons) of water per year are pumped from the southern Delta for agriculture and urban uses.

Thank you for considering this important information when you review the plan.

Regards,

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