



December 9, 2014

State Water Resources Control Board Members  
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RE: BUSINESS OWNERS SUPPORT RESTORING HEALTHY FLOWS TO THE LOWER  
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Dear State Water Board members:

Trout Unlimited<sup>1</sup> submits the following letter on behalf of the undersigned business owners and operators who represent fishermen who catch salmon and steelhead; marinas and supporting businesses that sustain fishing jobs; fishing guides and charter boat operators who take more than 300,000 Californians fishing each year for salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead; rafting outfitters that take people on trips in the Central Valley and throughout California; local bait and tackle shops that supply rods, reels, lures and tackle to fishermen; and businesses that depend on a vibrant tourism industry.

We urge the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to use its authority to set protective flow standards on the Lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries, in order to restore fisheries and recreational uses. Our businesses, while different, all rely on the health of Central Valley Rivers and the San Francisco Bay-Delta. Healthy rivers and abundant salmon and steelhead mean business: from the docks to the upper watershed, healthy salmon and steelhead runs and wild rivers support thriving businesses. Unfortunately, the waterways on which our businesses rely have been degraded for years. Our businesses and livelihoods have been impacted and, in some cases, lost as a result.

The SWRCB has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reverse decades of declining fisheries, water quality conditions, and fresh water flow rates which in turn will help protect our jobs and

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<sup>1</sup> Trout Unlimited is the nation's oldest and largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring trout and salmon fisheries. Trout Unlimited has 150,000 members across the country, including 10,000 in California, and offices in Berkeley, Sacramento, Ft. Bragg, Truckee, Sonora, and San Juan Bautista.

livelihoods. We urge the SWRCB to fairly weigh the needs of fisheries and recreational beneficial uses by sincerely considering the benefits our businesses (and other like us) receive from a functioning river ecosystem and the significant economic benefits we provide to California's economy when our businesses are healthy.

In order to ensure that the unacceptable status quo conditions do not continue, we urge the SWRCB to require that:

- At least half (and as close to 60% as possible) of the San Joaquin River's natural flow reach the Delta during the first six months of each year.
- To the maximum extent possible, winter-spring flows track natural patterns (magnitude, duration, timing, and frequency) of freshwater flow.
- Adaptive management of flows and other non-flow restoration measures focus on attainment of specific and measurable biological and physical outcomes (such as the CVPIA/AFRP anadromous fish doubling targets).
- Flows in summer and fall be sufficient to maintain fish/wildlife, water quality, and recreational benefits in the Bay-Delta, lower San Joaquin, and San Joaquin tributaries.

Our businesses have continually suffered from poor water quality and flow conditions, while other businesses have benefitted from the diversion of too much water from the Central Valley Rivers. From 2008-2009, California's salmon fishery was completely closed for the first time in our great state's history, with devastating impacts to thousands of men and women whose livelihood depends on the salmon fishery. Similarly, tourism is California's biggest industry and it is hampered when rivers have too little water and too few fish. We hope the SWRCB will restore a long-lost balance between those who extract water from the River and Delta, and those, like us, whose businesses and livelihoods depend on leaving more water flowing from the southern Sierra Nevada to the Sea.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Louis Moosios, Owner  
San Joaquin Guide Service  
Madera, CA

Josh Brockett, Owner  
Fish On Fly Gear  
Sonora, CA

Melanie and Dan Lewis, Owners  
Glory Hole Sports  
Angels Camp, CA

Jimmie Morales, Owner  
Sierra Fly Fisher Tours  
Oakhurst, CA

Jerry Neuburger, Licensed Guide  
Deltastrippers.com  
Lodi, CA

Rick Mazaira, Owner  
Yosemite Outfitters  
North Fork, CA

Scotty Scheu, Operations Manager  
Mother Lode River Trips  
Lotus, CA

Greg and Kris Kennedy, Owners  
Kennedy Brothers Guide Service

Mark Bujan, Independent Guide  
Affiliated with The Fly Shop

Morgan Thalken, Independent Guide

Rick Anderson, Owner  
Fly Fishing Specialties

Jordan Romney, Owner  
Jordan Romney Fly Fishing

Matt Heron, Owner  
Matt Heron Fly Fishing

Dave Stanley, Owner  
Truckee River Outfitters

Brian Slusser, Owner  
Four Season Guide Service

Elizabeth Dougherty  
Wholly H2O

Nate Rangel  
Adventure Connection, Inc.  
Caloutdoors  
Lotus, California

Matt Koles, Owner  
Gilligan's Guide Service

Jon Baiocchi, Owner  
Baiocchi's Troutfitters

Cary Westbrook  
Motherlode Fly Fishers  
Sonora, CA

Amy Kileen  
Kern River Fly Fishers  
Bakersfield, CA

Scott West  
Fresno Fly Fishers  
Fresno, CA

Chris Maher, Owner  
Maher Guide Service

Ralph and Lisa Cutter, Owners  
California School of Fly Fishing

Bill and Sharon Reynolds, Owners  
Ebbett's Pass Sporting Goods  
Arnold, CA