State Water Resources Control Board
Chairwoman Felicia Marcus and all Board Members
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812
Fax: 916-341-5620

RE: Central Valley Project (CVP) Operations and Temperature Management Plan

Dear Ms. Marcus:

As you know, California is in the grip of an extraordinary drought. Cities, families, farms and the environment are all at considerable risk. The potential for economic, social and environmental catastrophe is great. Decisions that will be made during this summer and fall are critical to all stakeholders.

During the past three weeks, there has been a robust, multi-disciplinary planning effort, the objective of which is to ensure listed fisheries are protected while also protecting water users and south of Delta refuges from catastrophic losses. Senior management, biologists and staff from National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ca Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Department of Reclamation have been directly engaged in the development of this plan (Plan). The Plan will guide operations for both the State and Federal water projects for the balance of this year.

The following are central elements of the proposed Plan:

- Management of in-stream water temperatures to protect threatened and endangered fish species.
- Borrowing of water supplies already purchased and allocated to water users in order to accomplish temperature objectives and timely water deliveries.
- Fall releases of the borrowed water to meet the needs of urban, agricultural and refuges located south of the Delta.

As a south of Delta water user, we are almost entirely dependent on timely return of the borrowed water which we have already purchased at tremendous expense. Failure to implement this part of the Plan would have tragic economic and social consequences. I understand the need to borrow our water to successfully implement the Plan but it would be cruel and unfair if that precious supply is not returned once it has served its fishery purposes, as proposed in the Plan. I urge the Board and regulatory agencies to implement the entire Plan and avoid any temptation to repurpose the critical fall Shasta water releases later in the year. We have paid for this water and are dependent on its timely delivery to meet critical needs.

All stakeholders cannot survive another unraveling of the Plan! The worst outcome imaginable is the adaptive management process causes high mortality of the salmon **and** the water users.

Sincerely,

John Belli
Golden Bear Farms

cc: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL STATE WATER RESOURCE CONTROL BOARD MEMBERS: Jeanine.townsend@waterboards.ca.gov
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