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SWRCB EXECUTIVE

May 30,

Dear Governor Brown and Chair Marcus,

I am writing today to voice my concern for the flow of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem addressed in the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Currently, the amount of unimpaired flow in the Delta is only ~15%, but increasing the flow to 60% between February and June would be fully protective of fish and wildlife in the lower San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries. With this increase, there would be many benefits to the Delta ecosystem including salmon and bird species. With proper water management changes, agriculture would be minimally affected.

With current low river flows, fish passages are impeded, pollutants become more concentrated in the water (and thus more harmful) and dissolved oxygen levels decrease. Low flow also increases water temperature. All of these effects change the physical characteristics of an ecosystem and cause native species to be outcompeted by non-native species. For instance, non-native predators are devouring juvenile native fish. Currently,

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. If we want to maintain the beauty of the diverse Delta ecosystem with native wildlife, we need to increase the flow of Delta rivers.

Increasing the flow of the rivers would decrease the amount available for agriculture, but I believe the decrease would not be detrimental. Instead, there should be better management of snowmelt and ground water by using water efficient irrigation practices such as drip irrigation. Also, lower-value, water intensive crops, such as alfafa, could be replaced with higher-value, water-efficient crops so that we could grow more food with less water.

As a citizen of California, and the Sacramento area, I visit the Delta and appreciate seeing a biodiverse, pristine wildlife ecosystem. Thank you for taking the time to read my

letter, and I hope you will consider this request when you update the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

Sincerely,

Mariana X. Diaz

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