

SWRCB
Division of Water Rights
Attn: Rick Satkowski

Mr. Satkowski,
Friday, the 18th, I attended the Public Workshop regarding the 2016 Sacramento River Temperature Management issues and the proposed plan.

As a person who has lived in the southern part of the Sacramento Valley for 78+ of my 80 years and as a member of families that have farmed in that this area for multi-generations, I was disappointed to hear some of the "fixes" tried and proposed, that have been and will be extremely costly, Have required and will continue to require millions of acre feet of water from Northern California and yet have not produced the results that the various agencies want.

Missing in the discussions were the recognitions that nature ebbs and flows and no matter how the human attempts to "regulate" nature, the outcome is not precise and in many instances, creates more harm than good; such as waste of water and financial resources.

Those making comments during the public comment period, tried to address this, but were given limited time or cut off because of extra time taken by the first two presentations. Mr. Mike McHenry (phone number: 650-703-5498) had an excellent set of comments, but was limited by time constraints for those making comments. Hopefully, he left the entire set for Water Boards to review.

One of the issues not addressed is the increase in the number of predatory fish, namely, the striped bass and some sturgeon that are not native to the Sacramento River and which devour the smelt and the small Chinook and other salmonids. This has been made evident when those predators are caught and opened-----many small fish are found. If that is extrapolated out, it means hundreds, if not thousands or millions of small fish do not survive, even those beyond the "planting" site. It also means that work needs to be done to remove the predatory fish from the river.

Over the years, the river has varied from "flood" stage to very low, much depending on the rain and water content of the snow pack. We have had one of the most severe set of drought years in decades with recent storms filling reservoirs, but with no back-up storage to take the extra water for use when the water resources are stretched. There have been heavy rain storms and snow pack generating concerns of flooding. Until the current rain and snow season has ended, the total water available will not be precisely known. Also unknown is the amount of groundwater recharge. If the concerns about flooding persist, the response from the Bureau of Reclamation and State will be to release water from the reservoirs to prevent flooding. We also have the decisions from the various environmental groups, including the fisheries and wildlife agencies to release millions of acre feet of water to "control" the temperature of the river water to protect the fish, but the results of that have been extremely disappointing; in other words, for tiny results, the waste of water.

I sincerely hope that the Water Boards take seriously the public comments presented. Water and agriculture are linked---the production of food products, the economic health of the area, employment from the field to the table and all parts between and beyond. Northern California with its water is the "life" of this part of the State--- people, wildlife of all sorts-animals, fish and fowl and one cannot destroy one to outrageously benefit another.

Thank you for accepting this letter.

Sincerely,
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