



TO: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Comment Letter – 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED

To Whom it May Concern:

Increased Water Flow is Necessary to Protect the South Delta: As a long time resident of Discovery Bay (17 years), I have seen first hand that insufficient waterflow in the delta has had a devastating impact on the environment, local business, recreation, and potentially on human health. The last few years during the drought I personally witnessed the proliferation of water hyacinth, egeria densa, and toxic algae.

When travelling by boat from Stockton to Antioch, then Discovery Bay to Tracy, there were many waterways where the water was not visible at all due to the overgrowth of water weeds! Further, all sorts of polluted debris was trapped on top of thick hyacinth matt's, including but not limited to telephone poles, bottles, and lumber. I understand that for a period of time ship traffic was stopped in the Stockton channel at night since their navigation system (radar?) could not distinguish land from water. In Discovery Bay and Stockton (probably many other areas but I am speaking from personal experience) the stench was horrible. Flies, mosquitos and bugs were in abundance like never before, and the toxic algae prevented swimming in Discovery Bay and likely deterred visitors (thereby impacting local businesses).

I understand that scientists indicate that 60% of flows on the San Joaquin are needed as opposed to the proposed 40%, and the current level of water exports has exceeded previous limits. We need to protect our precious delta by increasing, NOT decreasing water quality standards for irrigation, agriculture, and recreation. How would the tunnels will solve any of our problems? As I understand it, pumping more water out will only decrease our water quality as the saline from SF Bay would increase, resulting in more of the dreaded toxic algae which has the downward effect of harming lives and negatively impacting the delta economy.

Please consider other alternatives to the tunnels that make sense and won't destroy the Delta.

Sincerely,
Blythe Bruntz