

From: Gary Estes
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Monday, January 16, 2017 12:35:36 PM



Dear State Water Resources Control Board:

You have the difficult job of balancing the wants and needs of all water users. There will be winners and losers. How do you decide?

You should be guided by the California Constitution. The Public Trust Doctrine is "an affirmative duty of the state to protect the people's common heritage in navigable waters for their common use." Court decisions have broadened this principle to include natural habitat protection. (Retrieved from http://www.slc.ca.gov/About/Public_Trust.html on Jan. 13, 2017)

Your priority should be to make sure the needs of a healthy habitat for the aquatic species living in and around our waterways. These life forms cannot write you a letter. They have **needs** for survival versus the **wants** of people. Human beings are very adaptive and have modified and found solutions for their water needs and wants for years. Wildlife and plants do not have alternatives for their habitat as they cannot move. They cannot adapt in the short time span that humans can alter water flows.

The Public Trust Doctrine requires us to be the stewards of the habitat **needs** of aquatic species and should have priority over our human **wants**. Accordingly, aquatic species need 60% of the natural flow in order to survive. They should receive what they **need to survive**. We humans can find alternatives for meeting our **water wants**.

Sincerely,
Gary Estes
4135 Eagles Nest
Auburn, CA 95603