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September 20, 2016

Delivered via email to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

RE: 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED

To whom it may concern:

I am in my late 60's, and have been fishing the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced Rivers since 1974. During this time I have witnessed a significant decline in the number of spawning Chinook salmon. The decline has been gradual and persistent long before the current crisis draught. The decline followed the construction of New Don Pedro and New Melones Dams. New Don Pedro in particular caused a substantial reduction in spring outflows in the Tuolumne.

I fully support the decision of the Board to increase outflows into the Delta. However, I feel that at least 50% of the natural flows should be released to flow to the ocean. This is based upon the 2010 study *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem* that determined that release of 60% of the unimpaired flow from February to June would fully protect the riparian and riverine environments.

Local agricultural interests will scream and moan that **any** water released is water wasted. They are the same folks who expanded almond acreage during a draught and have caused precipitous drops in the water table. It's time for big agriculture to play a more responsible role.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Hollingsworth".

Gordon Hollingsworth