

From: Jeanelle Steiner
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED
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Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Dear representatives on the Water Board,

I am a fourth generation Californian, and have lived in many cities around the San Francisco Bay over the last thirty years. I am deeply concerned about the deterioration of the overall health of the ecosystems of the Delta and its tributaries that flow to the Bay, and specifically our endangered native Salmon population. I have been involved in creek cleanups over the years and have personally seen the decline of the water quality and lower fish counts.

I urge you to be awake for what is at stake. As you must be aware: low river flows impede fish passage, concentrate pollutants, raise water temperatures, and eliminate migratory cues for fish returning to spawn. This is not just about Salmon- it is entire ECOSYSTEM that scientists have told you is in CRISIS and that it is fragile and should take precedence over agricultural needs. We cannot bring species that become extinct back, but we can employ creative solutions to address agricultural needs.

What is needed to secure a future of health for the waters is 60% of flow for the San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries.

You report from 2010 recommended this. In 2010 the State Water Board issued a report titled *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem* that determined that approximately 60% of unimpaired flow between February and June would be fully protective of fish and wildlife in the lower San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries.

I believe through better management of snowmelt, water efficient irrigation technologies and practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops, we could grow more food with less water. We can also work on rethinking our exports: Agricultural exports benefit a few farmers – often corporations – at the expense of other beneficial uses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your fellow citizen,
Jeanelle

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