



Dr. Joshua A. Miele
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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 Chairman and Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

I am writing to comment on your draft proposed update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, specifically the parts that set freshwater flow standards for the San Joaquin River and its main tributaries. The proposed river flow standards are inadequate to support restoration of Chinook salmon populations in the San Joaquin River valley and water quality in that valley or the San Francisco Bay's estuary. I urge you to protect public fisheries and water quality by requiring that more of the San Joaquin River's flow makes it to the Bay.

I have lived in Berkeley for thirty years. I moved here from New York to attend the University of California and I never left, in part because of the immense natural beauty of California. I have camped along the Tuolumne River with my family and sailed on the San Francisco Bay. My favorite activity is an annual Chinook salmon fishing trip I organize with my friends. Last year a group of ten of us went out on a commercial fishing boat and brought back multiple big salmon. We had a great party and ate this delicious natural food with our families and neighbors.

Unfortunately, Chinook salmon – an integral part of the California web of life since before it was even a state– are threatened. While current standards call for protecting only up to 40% of the flow in the San Joaquin's main tributaries, this is inadequate. Agency and independent scientists call for 60% of natural flow to allow for the restoration of Chinook salmon populations to the San Joaquin Valley. This is important for their threatened survival today, and even more crucial when you consider the threats facing this species due to climate change.

Thank you for considering the needs of all Californians as you set water quality standards that fully protect our native species.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joshua A. Miele