

From: Tom
To: [commentletters](#)
Cc: Marcus.Felicia@Waterboards
Subject: Comment Letter - 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 4:20:04 PM



Dear SWRCB,

Thank you for the opportunity to add my name to the long list of people who, out of deep concern for the vitality of our Delta, encourage you to commit 50% to 60% of the flow of the San Joaquin River and its tributaries to instream uses.

As California marches into the future, we must meet our moral obligation to leave our descendants a rich legacy of natural resources. We cannot in good conscience consume those resources at levels that ignore the physical, chemical, and biological limits of our ecosystem. The environmental damage inherent in those levels of consumption is antithetical to the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act; to preserve plant and animal communities for future generations, and to create the conditions "under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony." (Public Resources Code, sec. 21001.)

As somebody who lives and works in the watersheds of tributaries to the San Joaquin River, I realize that the standards I advocate will create additional challenges as water rights are adjusted in Phase III of this process. Phase III will be challenging regardless of whether the Board sets the instream flow standard at 30-50%, or at 50-60%. As a Californian, I embrace this resource challenge, as generations of Californians before me embraced theirs. As Californians, we all must come to understand that "every citizen has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation of the environment." (Public Resources Code, sec. 21000.)

However, Phase III will only be worth the effort if the result is a viable Delta. If we go through all the effort of Phase III, and the fishery collapses anyway due to insufficient instream flows, we will have made a herculean effort for no good reason.

If the Board is dead set on the 30-50% standard at this time, I encourage you to also set measureable and objective standards for resource conditions you hope to achieve with this instream flow within the first decade of implementation. If those standards are not achieved, or if the monitoring of those standards is not done, then the instream flow standard should automatically ratchet up to the 50% to 60% standard, with the additional water right adjustments that entails. This will give the advocates for the 30% to 50% standard the proper incentive to maintain a healthy Delta. This will assure the advocates of the 50%-60% standard that ultimately the condition of the Delta will improve.

Sincerely,

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