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State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to *strongly support* your proposal to increase flows in the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and Merced Rivers, to keep more water in the rivers. Our family has lived within 5 miles of the North Fork Stanislaus River for almost 40 years. We've heard stories about how miners during the Gold Rush hauled wagon-loads of fish out of "our" river to feed the workers. Now sportsmen consider themselves lucky to come home with a dinner or two of planted trout. Times have sure changed!

During this drought we have been amazed, when we've left the mountain and driven through the foothills and valley, to see that new vineyards and orchards are being planted, some on grazing land that we'd assumed was too dry for farming. Our conclusion is that agriculture will use as much water as it is allowed to. It has a thirst that can never be satisfied, it seems.

But our water needs to be used for many things, cities, fish, industry, as well as farming. it also needs to be used wisely today so options are kept open for future generations. Using it all up for farming or for industry and not keeping enough to maintain fish and other wildlife is like spending all our capital now and not leaving any for the unknown future. Maintaining what God has given us, in the most natural state we can now, is wise stewardship of what we've received from past generations; it preserves options for dealing with what the future will bring.

Respectfully,

Virginia Hunt