



Tuolumne River Conservancy, Inc.

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December 17, 2016

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

Dear Board:

We support the Board's Supplemental Environment Document for the Bay Delta Phase I.

We are pleased you are asking for settlement offers that have been prepared by stakeholder groups which will include environmental groups.

We request that as you review each settlement offer you keep the needs of the ESA listed O. mykiss in the forefront. O. mykiss have received inadequate consideration since they were not addressed in the license review for New Don Pedro dam in 1995. O. mykiss have been needlessly ignored in most years. FERC flows do not address O. mykiss (steelhead) habitat requirements. Since there is now a

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federal mandate to protect *O. mykiss*, we request that you include language to support the special environmental status and requirements of the dual life strategies of both resident and migratory *O. mykiss*.

We support the idea of restoration both in and out of the river channel. Our organization has restored parts of the Tuolumne River and its floodplain in the juvenile rearing areas. We also have plans for several additional restoration projects upstream in the spawning reach as well as continuing with restoration in the rearing habitat reach. These projects will provide floodplain inundation and better instream habitat for spawning and rearing.

We encourage you to address predation in the Tuolumne River in the mining reach. As much as 95 percent of out-migrating smolts are lost in the in-stream pits. Restoration of this area could do much to increase the success of the smolt migration to the ocean.

Thank you for your welcoming attitude.

Sincerely,

David and Allison Boucher
Project Managers