

commentletters



From: Carey Johnson <carey@manzanitapress.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2016 10:52 PM
To: commentletters
Subject: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED

Dear members of the California Water Boards,

My name is Carey Johnson and I live in Santa Cruz county. When I was a child in Palo Alto, my mother used to take me to the Baylands Nature Preserve to look for white cranes and great blue herons from the narrow boardwalks above the marsh at the edge of town. It was different from other places -- quiet and flat, golden and watery. Above the reeds, on the narrow boardwalk she taught me how filled with life the brown, muddy place actually was.

But every summer my parents took us north to Trinity Alps Resort in Trinity county to stay in rough cabins on the river there. As a child I looked forward to it year after year -- listening to the sound of river as we fell asleep; watching the bats dart past the yellow bulbs on the sleeping porch at night.; hiking up to swim in the alpine waterhole Cherry Flats during the day. Every summer as we approached, we would watch for the river's height. Would it be deep enough to ride our inner tubes down the rapids --or would we be wading ankle-deep?

Over time it's become clear to me what a loss we have suffered by trying to over-engineer California's watersheds -- ridirrecting California's rivers, diminishing the runs of wild salmon and drying up our wild places.

Please consider the points below and preserve the wild flows of our rivers and watersheds for the seventh generation from today. Please direct efforts toward creating a system to manage California's groundwater responsibly. Your work will help protect California's wild places and create a sustainable agricultural economy for California's long term; not just for a lifetime or two.

Thank you for your consideration.

- 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.
- At least half of the natural flow from the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and lower San Joaquin Rivers should make it to the Bay-Delta.
- Historically, populations of spawning salmon may have exceeded 400,000 fish in the San Joaquin River Basin, but in many recent years that figure has plummeted to just a few thousand.
- Low river flows impede fish passage, concentrate pollutants, raise water temperatures, decrease dissolved oxygen, and eliminate migratory cues for fish returning to spawn.
- Flows should be sufficient to inundate floodplains, which serve as critical habitat for juvenile salmon and other fish.
- The commercial salmon fishery in California is on the brink. The salmon population was so low in 2008 and 2009 that the commercial fishing season had to be cancelled, resulting in the loss of more than 2,200 jobs and \$255 million in annual revenue..
- Salmon are a keystone species, providing food for other animals and transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. More than 100 species depend on salmon.
- The Bay-Delta forms the West Coast's largest estuary, providing habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. It serves as a major stopover for the Pacific Flyway and as a migration pathway for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon traveling to and from their home streams to the Pacific Ocean.
- 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. More crop per drop!
- In the Hetch Hetchy service area, water use decreased by 30% between 2007 and 2016 as a result of water conservation. We can accomplish great things when we all work together.

Sincerely,

Carey Johnson
Santa Cruz County, California

List of Submitters: Sierra Club-Letter Writing Campaign

The following people submitted the same form letter or a letter of similar text. The State Water Board received a total of approximately 35 copies of letters addressing similar talking points.

Commenters	Submitted by:
General Public	Barry Rosen
General Public	Cameron Montalvo
General Public	Carey Johnson
General Public	Caroline Fenyo
General Public	Caroline Holliday
General Public	Daniel Mccabe
General Public	Dup Crosson
General Public	Elizabeth Houck
General Public	Emily Steinmetz
General Public	Erik Zanelli
General Public	John Cordes
General Public	Julien Tai-Beauchamp
General Public	Kim Spillane
General Public	Kyra Sheeper
General Public	Lance Powell
General Public	Maggie Crocker
General Public	Marcello Vial
General Public	Mark Foote
General Public	Martin Gothberg
General Public	Mary Gill
General Public	Matthias Guegler
General Public	Mei-Ling Stefan
General Public	Michelaina Johnson
General Public	Mitch Faure
General Public	Norma Harrison
General Public	Peter Wong
General Public	Ray Malan
General Public	Reed Williams
General Public	Rega Wood
General Public	Sally Hall
General Public	Sedona Yates
General Public	Shannon Mcentee
General Public	Susan Hopp
General Public	Tara Wiley
General Public	Virginia Van Kuran