



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

December 14th, 2016

Dear Water Board,

I testified with Tim Sloane and the group of people who work in the California fishing industry in front of the Water Board. I was representing Real Good Fish, a community supported fishery. We currently distribute fresh, local seafood to 1100 active members from Carmel to East Bay and Marin Co. Our aim is to educate members about our coastline and water shed, with the goal they take stewardship of it. We also promise our members that all the employees in our supply chain are paid fair wages. We not only support our local fishermen, but also processors, drivers, and hoist workers.

We also partner with organic farms and sustainable ranches in our regions to offer each other's products on occasion, share drop sites for our members, and may one day collaborate on deliveries. We are working to create a sustainable, resilient food web along coastal California.

We buy seafood from over 30 different fishermen, from Ft. Bragg to Santa Barbara, CA.. We brand our seafood to the stunning CA. coast – for example, Big Sur Sanddabs, Carmel Canyon Black Cod, California King Salmon. We are creating a market and brand for California seafood and we are proud that our fisheries are some of the most progressively, sustainably managed fisheries in the country, if not world.

We also have a Bay2 Tray program that brings local seafood to schoolchildren. We source fish that has very little commercial market and is often thrown by in dead as bycatch. We buy the fish, have it filleted, frozen and sell it to public schools throughout California. This is in participation of the Center for Eco-Literacy's "California Thursdays" initiative to get local, healthier food choices in the schools. This program has received numerous grants and the Real Good Fish founder, Alan, received a Champion of Change award at White House last year. With the support of grants we are able to send fishermen into classrooms. Both the fishermen and the kids love this. We've been warned that this might not scale nationally as only CA. kids will choose fish tacos over pizza.

Salmon is our best seller and the salmon is our strongest season financially. By using all parts of the salmon – we smoke the bellies and collars, brine the eggs, scrape the bones for spoon meat to make burgers, and give the heads to farmers - we are showing respect for the salmon and for the ecosystem. If water use in the San Joaquin River is diverted to the point that it will drive salmon below the point they can be commercially harvested, this will not only be devastating our natural ecosystems, but our economic coastal ecosystem as well. If a species is removed from the market, it's incredibly difficult to bring back the market for that fish. Cheap, imported farmed seafood will fill the gap. Infrastructure at the small ports will collapse. Not only fishermen, but welders, boat mechanics, hoist operators, processors, and truck drivers will lose their livelihoods. If this water-war on salmon drives them to extinction, this will go down in the history books alongside the gold miners pressure spraying down mountains and running the debris through toxins to separate fine gold, thereby wiping out everything downstream, including the thriving oyster industry in the San Francisco Bay.

We don't view this conflict as fishing vs. farming. There are many, many examples of farmers in California who use cover crops, dry farm, organic compost, rotate crops, protect beavers and other wildlife that enhance salmon. Sadly, these practices are not being used in the Central Valley. We all need to start moving towards a sustainable food system. Creating cattle grazing ranches in the middle of the desert and planting millions of almond trees during a drought are not sustainable and the region racing for the next big dust bowl, even with all the water in the rivers.

We ask you to consider the interests of all people of California and allot wild salmon 60% of the flow of the San Joaquin River Delta. Thank you for you time and consideration.

Sincerely,
The Real Good Fish Team
7532 Sandholt Rd. Moss Landing, CA. 95039

A series of handwritten signatures in blue ink. The names are difficult to read but appear to include "Kathy McKeough", "Dustin", and "Alan". There are several other illegible signatures below them.