



January 1, 2017

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair  
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RE: BUSINESS OWNERS SUPPORT RESTORING FRESHWATER FLOWS TO THE  
LOWER SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

Trout Unlimited (TU) submits the following letter on behalf of the undersigned business owners and operators who represent fishermen who catch salmon and steelhead; marinas and supporting businesses that sustain fishing jobs; fishing guides and charter boat operators who take more than 300,000 Californians fishing each year for salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead; rafting outfitters that take people on trips in the Central Valley and throughout California; local bait and tackle shops that supply rods, reels, lures and tackle to fishermen; and businesses that depend on a vibrant tourism industry. On December 19, 2014, TU, The Bay Institute (TBI) and the Tuolumne River Trust (TRT) submitted letters on behalf of over 100 business owners urging the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to use its authority to set protective flow standards on the lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries in order to restore fisheries and recreational uses (the letters are attached). Through this letter, these business owners renew their request. Additionally, the business owners listed below join in the request.

Our businesses, while different, all rely on the health of Central Valley rivers and the San Francisco Bay-Delta. Healthy rivers and abundant salmon and steelhead mean business for California: from the docks to the upper watershed, healthy salmon and steelhead runs and wild rivers support thriving businesses. Unfortunately, the waterways on which our businesses rely have been degraded for years. Our businesses and livelihoods have been impacted and, in some cases, lost as a result. The undersigned business owners appreciate the Board's efforts to date to adopt new water quality standards (which would set minimum requirements for the amount of inflow from the rivers of the San Joaquin basin), that seek to achieve a better balance between the many competing uses of the public's water resources. Unfortunately, the Board's most recent proposal to update water quality standards does not go far enough toward restoring the long-lost balance between those who extract water from the San Joaquin River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and those, like us, whose businesses and livelihoods depend on leaving more water flowing from the southern Sierra Nevada to the sea.

We urge the Board to fairly weigh the needs of fisheries and recreational beneficial uses by sincerely considering the benefits our businesses (and other like us) receive from a functioning river ecosystem and the significant economic benefits we provide to

California's economy when our businesses are healthy. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the Board to reverse decades of declining fisheries, water quality conditions, and fresh water flow rates by revising its proposed water quality standards for San Joaquin flows to the estuary in order to fully protect our fisheries.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yosemite Fly Fishing  
Guide Service

Tim Hutchins  
Owner



Chandra Ferrari

Water Policy Advisor/Staff Attorney  
Trout Unlimited