

Nishikawa, Marilyn@Waterboards



From: commentletters

From: Karen Fiene <kfiene@mills.edu>
Date: February 6, 2017 at 1:15:52 PM PST
To: Tam.Doduc@waterboards.ca.gov, Dorene.Dadamo@waterboards.ca.gov, frances.spivey-weber@waterboards.ca.gov,
Steven.Moore@waterboards.ca.gov, Felicia.marcus@waterboards.ca.gov
Subject: No Delay on Subsistence Fishing Protection

Dear Members of the State Water Board,

I strongly oppose any move to delay recognition of subsistence fishing and tribal cultural uses as beneficial uses for California waters. The current proposal within the state's Draft Part 2 of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California-Tribal and Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses and Mercury Provisions (Control Plan) must move forward as is. I view any attempt to "bifurcate" the document and not adopt the beneficial uses at this time as simply responding to an eleventh hour attempt by dischargers and not protective of the most impacted residents of our state.

Claims that these beneficial uses need more input and consideration is incorrect. In fact, combining the beneficial use recognition with the Control Plan was further delay of a process that began in 2013. The Board's Office of Public Participation had initially communicated that proposed beneficial use language would come before the Board in 2013-14. In addition, there has been a lengthy "stakeholder" process where impacted communities, environmentalists, and dischargers had the opportunity to weigh in on the language and express concerns. Meanwhile, pollution remediation plans, such as the Mercury-Reservoir plan have moved forward without consideration of the deep impacts on people who consume high levels of contaminated fish for basic sustenance.

The human right to water includes protecting those who must fish to feed themselves. While establishing these beneficial uses will not immediately ensure such protections as waterways are yet to be designated to be impaired, it is unacceptable not to establish the potential to safeguard future generations. Please do not delay.

Sincerely,

Karen Fiene, FAIA, LEED AP
Director of Construction Compliance and Sustainability

Mills College
5000 MacArthur Blvd
Oakland CA 94613

work: 510-430-2323
cell: 510-708-1347