



July 24, 2018

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair  
 State Water Resources Control Board  
 1001 - I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

**RE: Comment Letter – Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments**

Dear Ms. Marcus and Fellow Board Members:

As a founder and co-owner of ECHO: The Wilderness Company, I spent more than 35 years running commercially outfitted trips on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers, with by far the majority of the company's trips devoted to the Tuolumne.

My principle concern is the health of the fishery in the entire San Joaquin watershed. A healthy fish population means many other components of the watershed will be healthy too. Long ago, the annual salmon run on the Tuolumne was roughly 130,000. From 2009 through 2016, the salmon run has ranged from 301 to 3,744 annually. Such a precipitous drop requires a science-based state plan focused on restoring and safeguarding this natural resource for future generations.

The State Water Board's 2010 report pinpoints the problem well by showing what is needed to restore the watershed. **Alternative 4, a 60% unimpaired flow between February and June**, would catalyze vital improvement in the native fishery. Let that be the Water Board's goal.

Nevertheless, I understand the political realities the Board faces. **Your 40% plan (Alternative 3) is a start in the right direction. But after an experimental period, you must move to 50% and then to 60% for the critical flow period from February to June.**

Show the courage to stand with your Water Board experts and to withstand the pressure from those who presently take the most water from the San Joaquin basin. The San Francisco PUC has used exaggerated drought scare tactics while Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts have leveled accusations of a "water grab" using 19th century thinking. Ironically, Modesto and Turlock are the agencies who, along with San Francisco, "grabbed the water" long ago.

Adopt a 21st century solution and empower your staff to talk with people like those at XiO, Inc. in San Anselmo, CA about the creative, financially efficient ways they help mutual and municipal water systems throughout California to be better users of water with cutting edge cloud-based controls. Focus on the common good which ultimately results in a commonwealth, whereby we all gain.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Daly, Co-Owner  
 ECHO: The Wilderness Co., Inc.

*Classic Wilderness Adventures*

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**From:** Joe Daly <joedaly@echotrips.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018 10:47 PM  
**To:** LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments  
**Subject:** Comment Letter-Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Amendments  
**Attachments:** 2018 07-24 Comments by Joe Daly on Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments.pdf

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Please find my Comment Letter attached.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Daly

Joe Daly  
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