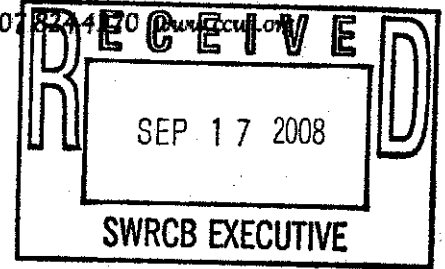




## Community Clean Water Institute

6741 Sebastopol Ave. Ste. 140, Sebastopol, CA 95472 707.822.4100 [www.ccul.org](http://www.ccul.org)

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



Subject: Review of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary.

Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

When reviewing the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary, please consider an approach that is sustainable to both the economy, and to the Delta's ecosystem. The Delta's native fish populations are rapidly declining, and the dated levees which protect the islands of the delta are becoming more and more prone to failure. The severity of these changes, and the speed at which they are occurring, shows that policy makers must act quickly with a plan that responds to our concerns about fish stocks, as well as our state's drinking water supplies.

Five of the delta's fish species experiencing population loss are listed as endangered or threatened, this includes the federally and state listed Delta Smelt. A federal court's concern for these declines resulted in a reduction of water exports from the delta. This is a problem when two thirds of California's households receive drinking water from this system, and when the agriculture industry of the Central Valley is largely dependent on imports from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary.

Improving the current levee system, as well as making it more resilient to potential earthquakes will be expensive, and through-Delta pumping will continue to result in an unstable environment for local wildlife. A peripheral canal, which would divert water from the Sacramento River to a route that borders the delta, would allow for more effective management of flow and salinity levels. California residents would spend less money on water treatment costs, and more water would be available to agriculture because of diminished salinity levels in the delta. These changes, along with allowing the biologically less productive islands to flood, would provide more habitat variation for the Delta's biodiversity.

Further reduction of Delta water exports to the Central Valley and to Southern California may be best for fish populations, but it certainly would be crippling to our economy. A peripheral canal may still leave room for some undesired changes in the Delta habitats; they still far out number the detrimental effects of through-Delta pumping and a dual conveyance system. A peripheral canal would also be less costly to the economy and would still allow for exports. The money saved and gained could be used to support restoration and conservation efforts in the delta.

This plan will only be successful if it is actively monitored and regulated by a government agency. This agency must be proactive, and must be financially prepared to react to changes in the Delta. Again, the lowered costs of this project, as well as the continuation of water exports, will help with the funding of this regulatory agency.

Sincerely,

Terrance Fleming  
Program Coordinator

