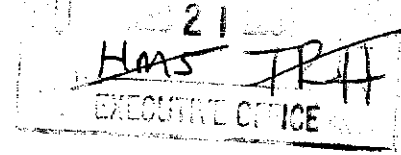




American Fisheries Society

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December 16, 2004

Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P. O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE 1995 WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

Dear Chairman Baggett,

The California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society represents over 450 professional fisheries scientists in California and Nevada involved in aquatic research, management, and policy. The mission of the Chapter and our parent society is to use, and promote the use of science to improve conservation and sustainable management of fishery resources and the aquatic ecosystems upon which they depend. Since its establishment, the California-Nevada Chapter has provided technical analyses, interpretation, and policy recommendations on many regional fishery issues, including salmonid and endangered species protection, ecosystem restoration, and water resource management.

We are aware that the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) is engaged in a review of the 1995 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (WQCP) and is considering potential amendments or revisions to the plan. Many of the topics being considered in the review have direct relevance to the Chapter's mission of fishery and ecosystem protection and sustainable management, including:

- Water quality compliance and baseline monitoring program;
- Delta Cross Channel closure;
- Salmon protection objective;
- Delta outflow;
- Export limits; and
- River flows (lower Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers).

These issues and the information and supplemental materials that have been presented to date and will be presented as the review proceeds are complex and, for some issues, have effects and implications beyond the Estuary. In addition, many of these issues are interrelated in their effects on fishery and ecosystem beneficial uses of the Estuary and its

water resources. To assist you in this important task, we are offering to provide our objective review, technical analysis and interpretation, and summary of the materials presented to the Board on the issues listed above. Our assistance could be in the form of a question-and-answer discussion, written or oral review and summary of information and materials submitted to the Board, and/or written comments on specific issues and their relationship to fishery and ecosystem protection and management.

Thank you for considering our offer of assistance and objective technical and policy review of the WQCP. Should you agree that our participation would be helpful, we would be happy to meet with the Board and/or Board staff to discuss this further. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (916) 651-9618 or tfrink@water.ca.gov or by regular mail: P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Frink", written in a cursive style.

Ted Frink
Chair, Conservation Committee
California-Nevada Chapter, American Fisheries Society

cc: California-Nevada Chapter Executive Committee