
From: sunshine@snugharbor.net [<mailto:sunshine@snugharbor.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 11:27 AM

To: Townsend, Jeanine@Waterboards

Subject: Objection to the ongoing diversion of Sacramento River water and the structure already diverting inflow into Steamboat Slough

This letter is written in opposition to the ongoing excessive diversion of Sacramento River water, such that flows in the North Delta appear to be running at historically low levels. I further request that the subsurface structure already blocking part of the natural flow into Steamboat Slough be immediately removed, and that I receive a written report of who installed the subsurface structure and under what permit process. The subsurface flow barrier is located about ten feet east of the Steamboat Slough bridge. Note that the subsurface flow barrier blocks about 50% of the natural flow into Steamboat Slough, but does *not* currently block navigation. If the SWRCB needs underwater photos and ultrasound of what I am referring to, I can provide that. Mr. Paul Marshall has said the subsurface flow diversion structure is naturally occurring. However, a review of bathymetry and the underwater photos and sonar indicate otherwise. In any case the FUNCTION of the subsurface structure is to block adequate freshwater into into Steamboat Slough at the confluence with the Sacramento River, and I request that the flow diversion facility be removed.

Due to actions of DWR/USBR, freshwater outflow on Steamboat Slough in particular appears to be running at historic low levels. Despite treatment last year for invasive water weeds, like egeria densa, there are nonnative water weeds now lining the banks of this historic waterway that is very important to native salmon migration. In addition, summer and fall 2014 the water temperature on lower Steamboat Slough reached 78 to 80 degrees, which is fatal for adult migrating salmon.

Most likely due to the lack of adequate freshwater flows on the Sacramento River and therefore also Steamboat Slough, the drinking water quality of the wells in this area of the Delta have degraded and will continue to degrade until adequate flows are restored. The diversion of flows into the Yolo Bypass for several years in a row could also be a source of contaminant impact for drinking water wells.

I am also very concerned that SWRCB has been making decisions regarding allowance of water exports based upon false and misleading flow data as reported on CDEC. I personally conducted a review of just a two week period of flow as reported on North Delta flow station website links, and found there are important patterns of gaps in the flow data, which may have resulted in inflation of the actual flows on North Delta rivers. I wish to have an appointment with one of the SWRCB flow engineers to discuss these findings.

In the 1960's, the first Governor Brown promised the Delta land owners and in fact all citizens of California that only "Surplus water" would be exported to the lower Central Valley or other areas of the state. The current Governor Brown, however, has allowed exactly the opposite of what his father promised; The Delta and San Francisco Bay Area is being left with "the surplus" (if any) while junior water rights holders are allowed to divert more water than the overall system of California can accommodate in any water year, let alone another drought year.

You have a hard job.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole S. Suard, Esq. Managing Member, Snug Harbor Resorts, LLC