



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board

Dear Ms. Townsend,

Please consider that at least half of the San Joaquin River's natural flow should reach the Delta during the first six months of each year. Flows in the summer and fall should be sufficient to maintain fish and wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities. If we wipe out the Delta ecosystem we as humans will be in dire straits. Low river flows impede fish passage, concentrate pollutants, raise water temperatures, decrease dissolved oxygen, and eliminate migratory clues.

Consider also that historically, populations of spawning salmon may have exceeded 400,000 fish in the San Joaquin River Basin, but in many recent years that figure has plummeted to less than 2,000 fish. Salmon are our canary in the coalmine, providing food for other animals and transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. More than 100 species depend on salmon.

The Bay-Delta forms the West Coast's largest estuary, providing habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. It serves as a major stopover for the Pacific Flyway and as a migration path for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon traveling to and from their home streams to the Pacific Ocean. As much as 6.8 million acre-feet (2.2 trillion gallons) of water per year are pumped from the southern Delta for agriculture and urban uses. Please consider better management of snow melt, water efficient irrigation practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops, we could grow more food with less water.

Thank you very much for your time,
Gregg Wrisley
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Sebastopol, CA 95472