

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100



Dear Jeanine,

I am very concerned that this Bay Delta plan is being ram-rodged through the public hearing process with no time allowed for public comment. As a tax payer, law abiding sportsman and conservationist, I implore you to allow our voices to be heard! We are on the edge of losing the Bay delta ecosystem for good unless we act prudently to protect water flows and habitat for fish and wildlife. If we allow this to happen, what will we tell our children and grandchildren?

Important points that must be considered in reviewing this plan:

- 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.
- Low river flows impede fish passage, concentrate pollutants, raise water temperatures, decrease dissolved oxygen, and eliminate migratory clues.
- 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 just a few thousand fish.
- Salmon are a keystone species, providing food for other animals and transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. More than 100 species depend on salmon.
- The commercial salmon fishery in California is on the brink. The salmon population was so low in 2008 and 2009 that the commercial fishing season had to be cancelled.
- 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.
- Up to 6.8 million acre-feet (2.2 trillion gallons) of water per year are pumped from the southern Delta for agriculture and urban uses.
- Through better management of snowmelt, 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.

This last point is particularly critical with what appears to be successive drought years, any mismanagement of delta flows will seriously imperil fish and wildlife.

Thank for considering this points in reviewing this plan,

Jeff Lorelli
Fremont, CA