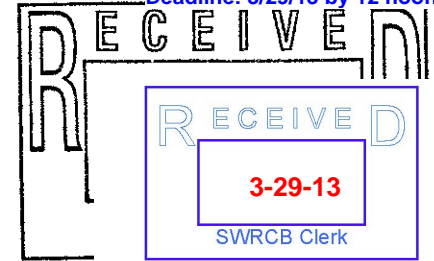


Anne and Kip Husty  
922 Bautista Ct.  
Palo Alto, CA 94303



March 25, 2013

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board

Comment Letter: Bay Delta Plan SED  
State Water Resources Control Board,

Please consider this letter with due respect for the good of our great state and the people who live here because of its natural beauty and sublimity, along with an historic record of caring stewardship of this natural beauty. These are fundamental reasons why we choose to live and contribute our lives to the state (alright, included in why we choose to live here is because of a dynamic culture, one, it may be added, that cares for the land and each other, and cultivates vital creative expression that reflects that care). California has this strange dichotomy of destroying parts of its natural beauty with growing populations, but at times this growth produces culture that rises to the heights of its natural beauty and sublimity. Sadly, this is not always the case and we lose more than we ever get back, not only due to the encroachment itself, but also because opportunities to mitigate damages and properly care for the environment are not taken, instead, that cheap and tawdry end of financial wealth is substituted for the greater ends. With that, we lose the beauty, the natural environment, and the chance to build upon a culture of care and respect. We find ourselves at that point once again.

As you consider the flow rate for the Sacramento Delta, please realize that you have the opportunity to contribute to the grand legacies of California's natural beauty and environment, and its brilliant forward thinking culture of stewardship and care. You have a decision for the future whether on flow rates. Consider what your choice could yield towards this end. A 60% unimpaired flow rate will mitigate losses and new demands (we do face an uncertain climate future) and will help ensure:

1) River flows that are adequate to provide passage to fish, keep the water properly oxygenated, and allow for the moderation of water temperature;

2) That the salmon fisheries are protected, and coming with this, the good health of salmon commercial fishing (suffering much in the last few years due to declines in fisheries, costing tens of millions of dollars to the state), and the health of the wildlife that depend on salmon as a keystone species;

3) That the West Coast's largest estuary will have adequate flow to provide food and safe haven to the migratory birds that depend upon it;

4) Finally, that recreational use of the delta and its tributaries will remain vibrant and continue to be a source for inspiration and enjoyment.

Why would these benefits be denied for a lower unimpeded flow rate? It cannot be the health and beauty of the natural environment. The health of fish, wildlife, and birds would not be given a boost by a lower flow rate than 60% (AT BEST, they would hold their own - barring further disruptions to their environment and the ecology of the Delta). It certainly is not the case that these effected parties have options to adapt and change the way the rivers provide for them.

Why would a lower flow rate be imposed? One reason is population need. Another is agricultural need. Both of these factors ARE capable of adjustment and adaptation. Historically, agricultural interests have fought restrictions on agricultural use of water. Conservation and efficient management of irrigation and crop selection are easy adjustments that fit the very market economic model that drives our state's agriculture; they will find alternatives once that is demanded by availability of water, a common good that has benefitted them for over a century. This Board has every right to regulate the availability of water, and only the most dogmatic and deranged ideologue would deny the public this right. Let them do the easy steps to adapt - those who refuse will suffer, those who do it will be fine.

Population centers place a demand upon water resources and natural flows of rivers. As with agricultural interests, there is much that can be done to lessen the demands made by human populations, and similarly,

they will be fine if they make adjustments. In both instances, it is hollow ideology to complain about the relatively slight costs and the "inconvi0ences" brought about by wise stewardship.

We greatly encourage this Board to adopt the 60% unimpeded flow rate for the Delta and its tributaries. To be part of the true greatness of California, its beauty and caring culture, is an opportunity we hope you take seriously.

Sincerely,

Kip and Anne Husty