

March 26, 2013

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

I am writing to you regarding the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. I want to **STRONGLY** urge you to allow more water to flow down the Bay Delta and not give so much to farmers or people, for the environment's sake and for our children's future sake. I have heard of stories in history where salmon would be so abundant in the rivers, one only needed to plunge in a spear and could pick up several fishes!

Now salmon are only 1% the amount it used to be!

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. But is this possible when farmers don't have incentive to use less water when water is so cheap for them? There has to be more initiative and thought with how water should be thought of. Today, food, animals, and even people are seen as ways to make lots of money without and care for them, nor care for quality of such. Please take the courage to rise to this one in life time occasion to do the right thing for our future, environment, and the fish that have no voice in this; and not what a few people want for their own well being.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Linda Sae-Jang  
Alameda County Citizen  
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