

March 29, 2013

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



Re: Comment Letter - Bay-Delta Plan SED
for the Water Board's consideration in defining the Bay Delta Plan

Dear Ms. Townsend:

I am writing you and the State Water Resources Control Board to urge the Board to implement unimpeded water flows to the delta at 60% to 75% of Delta outflow, Sacramento River inflow, San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

If we do not provide enough water in these river systems, we will lose salmon as a species here. Salmon, which used to be in the millions every year, are now down to a few thousand in some runs – a devastating collapse resulting in closing of commercial salmon fishing in California in 2008 and 2009.

- **Salmon cannot survive low water flows in the rivers that they need for life:** These low flows deliver a deadly combination of threats to the fish: low oxygen, increased pollutants, warmer temperatures, less water, and less migratory clues. Since the salmon migrate to the river where they were spawned and born, they will always go back to the same river and not having migratory clues is a death sentence almost in and of itself.
- **At least half of the San Joaquin River's natural flow should reach the Delta during the first six months of each year.**
 - o Flows in the summer and fall should be sufficient to maintain fish and wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities.
 - o If the flows are at 60-75% all year, but low for a few weeks – that low flow can destroy the life giving effects for the salmon
- **We can conserve water much much better than we are currently doing.**
 - o How much water would be conserved if we stopped 80% of evaporation loss?
 - o Let us manage this scarce resource much better through snowmelt management plans, water-efficient irrigation practices, growing higher value, low water-use crops.

In support of the Water Board's own findings in 2010:

"Recent Delta flows are insufficient to support native Delta fishes for today's habitats. In order to preserve the attributes of a natural variable system to which native fish species are adapted, many of the criteria developed by the State Water Board are crafted as percentages of natural or unimpaired flows. These criteria include:

- 1) 75% of unimpaired Delta outflow*
- 2) 75% of unimpaired Sacramento River inflow*
- 3) 60% of unimpaired San Joaquin River*

We will lose these fish forever if we don't protect them now. With better management and careful conservation by all Californians, we can have a healthy Bay Delta water system for wildlife including salmon – and most of our crops.

I urge you, set the water flows all year round to 60% - 75% unimpaired flow – so the fish can survive.

So that future generations may also fish for wild salmon.

Sincerely,

Mary Keitelman
7 Acacia Court
Pacifica, CA 94044