



To:  
Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board

You have an historic opportunity to affect policies bad for the economy and our precious ecology that have made the Delta rank as one of the most maligned waterways in US history. Please consider:

- The collective economic impact of a vibrant salmon fishery and healthy ecosystem affects tourism throughout the Sacto-San Joaquin systems as well as the coastal cities and ports. For hotels, restaurants, boat dealerships, bait/tackle, marinas there is a multi-billion opportunity vs. subsidizing outdated farming on arid and semi-arid lands that have no business being farmed at all in many cases.

- California must move to modern sustainable farming, e.g. wine grapes that produce far more revenue with drastically less subsidy and environmental damage.

- Not only is there a far greater positive impact on the economy and jobs, the jobs produced by Central Valley farming encourage mass scale illegal immigration further exacerbating our fiscal crisis on social services.

As a California salmon fisherman I implore you to adopt the 60 percent of unimpaired springtime San Joaquin River flows previously found necessary to restore viable salmon populations. Your 60 percent finding came after hearing extensive and well-documented testimony from the California Dept. of Fish and Game, The Bay Institute and other credible witnesses.

In recent years the unimpaired flows have been closer to an average of 31 percent meaning that two thirds of the river's flow is intercepted, diverted, and never reaches the delta. No wonder salmon and other wildlife in the river and delta are dying. The San Joaquin River once support an estimated 800,000 spring run salmon before construction of the Friant Dam which cut off access to spawning grounds. You now have the opportunity to take a step towards rectifying that historic wrong.

There are more efficient ways for agriculture, cities and towns to use water so that water can be made available for salmon recovery. No matter what, it is critical to Californians that our rivers and wildlife are NOT killed by withdrawal and diversion of too much of the water.

A restored San Joaquin River will provide a very powerful economic shot in the arm to the salmon industry in California. This economic effect would be felt in boat dealerships, marinas, bait and tackle stores, boat repair shops and even hotels and restaurants that service fishermen who come from far and wide to fish salmon. I urge you to adopt your findings from 2010 and require that 60 percent of the river's springtime flow reach the Delta,

in order to support restoration of a sustainable salmon population, and to improve the health of the entire delta ecosystem. Thanks for your consideration, please do the right thing for the economy, rivers, the salmon and all fish species, and for California.

Regards,  
Paul Milo