



Dear People:

Re the water in the CA Delta:

We need at least one half the natural water flow for the first 6 months of the year. In the summer we need sufficient water to maintain fish and wildlife, sufficient water quality and water for recreation.

Low flows mean poor fish passage, concentration of water pollution, high water temperatures, decreased dissolved oxygen and elimination of migratory clues.

400 thousand salmon used to spawn in the San Joaquin River Basin. Only 2 thousand do now. Salmon are a keystone species providing food for over 100 other animal species.

The Bay Delta is the West Coast's largest estuary. It is habitat for 500 species. It is a major stopover in the Pacific Flyway. It is the migration path for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon going from home streams to the Pacific Ocean.

Up to 6.8 million acre-feet (2.2 trillion gallons) of water are pumped each year from the South Delta for agriculture and urban needs.

We can use much less water. We can do this with better management of snowmelt, water efficient irrigation practices and replacing lower-value water intensive crops with higher value water efficient crops.

We can grow more food with less water!

Please make wise choices and preserve our marvelous state.

Sincerely, Wendy Weikel