



Tuolumne River Trust
312 Sutter ST, Ste. 402
San Francisco, CA 94108

January 3, 2017

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Dear Ms. Marcus and Fellow Board Members:

I am Joe Daly, a founding board member of the Tuolumne River Trust. I was board chairman for 12 years and currently I am on their advisory board. For more than 35 years, I was a river outfitter on the Stanislaus, Merced, and Tuolumne Rivers.

My focus today is on the salmon runs in the watershed. If the salmon are healthy, so much else in the watershed will be healthy.

A car analogy may help to demonstrate how I view the status of the San Joaquin watershed. Most drivers can sense if their wheels are out of balance, but all too frequently ignore the problem, kidding themselves that they will handle the imbalance later. That same mindset can be seen in dealing with the San Joaquin watershed. Yes, we know things are out of balance, but we convince ourselves we will deal with the balancing problem later.

Continuing the car analogy, when we have a flat tire, we know that continuing to drive is not a very good option. So we wisely pull over to change the tire. Sadly, the San Joaquin and its tributaries are not faced with one-flat tire. The watershed is confronting a 3-flat-tire crisis where would-be drivers see no need to change their outdated policies. Just look at the Tuolumne River to see the collapse that has taken place. Long ago, the annual salmon run on the Tuolumne was roughly 130,000. From 2009 through 2016, the salmon run has ranged from 301 to 3,744 annually.

To put us back on the road to recovery, the Board's proposal to have a 40% springtime flow for the lower San Joaquin is a worthy initial effort, but you really are fixing only one of the flat tires. In 2010, Water Board scientists noted a 60% flow was needed to start a turn around. You must move in the direction of higher springtime flows. 50% is better than 40%; 60% is better than 50%.

Your biggest challenge in fixing the San Joaquin watershed will be the political push back from those who presently take the most from the four rivers. You must have the courage to withstand the shouting and political heat. The imbalance has gone on too long. We are in a crisis stage for salmon.

Agency experts need to put forth their most innovative ideas. Talk with people like those at XiO, Inc. in San Anselmo, CA about the creative, financially efficient ways they help mutual and municipal water systems throughout California to be better users of water with cutting edge cloud-based controls. In these difficult political times, you, the board, must create a setting for your staff to seek out solutions confidently.

We all need to move from an "us vs. them" attitude to one involving the common good. Ultimately, the common good results in a commonwealth, whereby we all gain. In seeking a 21st century solution, farmers and environmentalists must learn to understand the other's situation. Thoroughly examining the fears and concerns of each side will begin the process of finding common ground for a new agreement.

Otherwise, the San Joaquin watershed will collapse with policies that are equivalent to four flat tires.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Daly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Daly
Tuolumne River Trust Advisory Board

January 3, 2017

Dear Chair Felicia Marcus and State Water Board Members:

Thank you for your efforts to revive the San Francisco Bay-Delta and the rivers that provide it with essential freshwater inflow. We believe at least 50% of unimpaired flow on the Lower San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries -- the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced Rivers -- will be necessary to improve water quality and conditions for fish and wildlife. The updated Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan will likely be our last chance to restore populations of salmon, steelhead and other aquatic organisms. Please do everything in your power to help bring our amazing estuary back to life!

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Layne Hackett

Dear Members of the State Water Board,

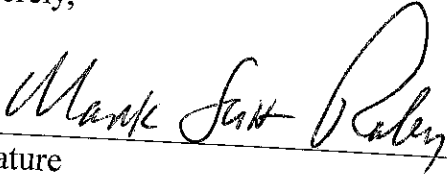
Please do everything in your power to protect and restore the Bay-Delta. Phase I of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan provides an historic opportunity to revive the largest estuary on the West Coast, including the San Joaquin River and its tributaries that are the life-blood of the Bay-Delta ecosystem from the south.

As you are aware, the State Water Board's own report, *Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem*, determined that approximately 60% of unimpaired flow between February and June would be fully protective of fish and wildlife in the lower San Joaquin River and its three major tributaries. Therefore, it's disappointing that the draft *Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for Phase I of The Bay Delta Plan* proposes establishing February through June unimpaired flow requirements of only 30% - 50% for the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers.

At least half of the San Joaquin River's natural flow should reach the Delta during the first six months of each year, and flows in the summer and fall should be sufficient to maintain fish and wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities.

Please take full advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance a comprehensive, long-term strategy for restoring the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Sufficient instream flows must be central to your decision.

Sincerely,



Signature

12/15/16

Date

