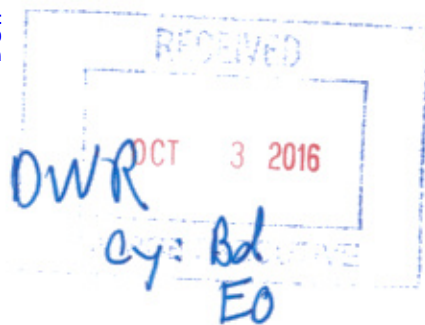
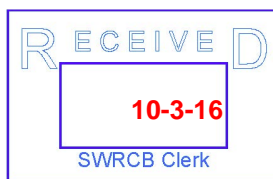


Governor Brown  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California



Dear Governor Brown:

I would like to make my concerns know. I am writing to you regarding your recent letter to the State Water Board. Setting the flow standards on the lower San Joaquin River to the Delta is a very significant policy issue in this time of drought.

Nearly doubling the amount of water used for fish flows from our rivers and reservoirs / lakes when we should be primarily focused on conserving and creating more storage will be disastrous for the economy, ecology, agriculture and our rural communities.

I am pleased that you have recognized the concerns of communities throughout our region and the negative effect of policies that put fish first over people.

In February of 2015 the residents of the Copperopolis area where put on notice that a possible drawdown of Lake Tulloch would occur. This warning ignited significant response form the community. The media coverage has done by and large an excellent job of revealing the impact of failed environmental policy on our community. The Copperopolis community and communities throughout the Sierra foothill region of California are engaged. The Biological Opinion document by the federal government's National Oceanic Administration's Fisheries Service, National Marine Fisheries Service in 2009 along with the Endangered Species Act has led to the "fish flow releases" portion of this bad policy. What happened to conserving water in a drought, there seems to be no accountability for the negative consequences. The fish flows continued in 2015 even though we were in the middle of a serious drought and had serious ramifications. This region of nearly 1.8 million people is suffering from dangerous water policy that will damage all of us in the seven county region.

These policies have also negatively affected the potential of increasing the salmon population. The Striped Bass were planted in the delta and are attacking salmon as predators. The planted Stripe Bass have now been declared as a native fish. Stripe Bass should be regulated to control this problem, where is the management. State regulators now want to punish agriculture, our communities, and region for bad policy.


The Lake Tulloch area, Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties is home to about 10,000 people. If we do not have a good rain and snow season in the Sierra, we are threatened as we were last year with the draining of Lake Tulloch our sole source of drinking water. New Melones Reservoir above Tulloch on the Stanislaus system was drawn down to just 10% of its capacity last year. Independent research found that 80% or more of the fish died because the water was too warm for the releases to be of any help. The fish flow releases are poor policy. Last year in May a release of 30,000 acre feet of water valued at approximately \$21 million was released to move nine fish downstream.

I hope that you take action and your agencies have a complete understanding of the impact of these policies on the seven counties with a population of 1.7 million people with major agricultural production. These counties include Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Merced, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Amador and Mariposa Counties.

I urge you to take the following action steps for adequate public input by extending the public comment period from 60 to 120 days. We also request that three public hearings be held in the cities of Stockton, Modesto and Merced to provide adequate public comment.

We need to build more storage, additional surface and underground storage. The population of California has grown by approximately 42% since New Melones was built and state surface storage has only increased by 3%.

I support you in taking action to suspend anymore water releases for fish until it is known if there is adequate precipitation this winter in order to reasonably refill the reservoirs. I urge you to ask President Obama to have the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture and Commerce suspend the use of the Endangered Species Act until we have refilled our reservoirs and have developed responsible policy that considers the best interest of the agricultural community and the rural communities involved.

Sincerely,  
Greg Mayer   
E mail [csr@caltel.com](mailto:csr@caltel.com)  
Copperopolis, California  
Lake Tulloch Alliance

**List of Submitters: Lake Tulloch Alliance-Form Letter**

*The following people submitted the same form letter or a letter of similar text. The State Water Board received a total of approximately 13 copies of this letter.*

<b>Commenters</b>	<b>Submitted by:</b>
General Public	David Hackson
General Public	J. Syx
General Public	James Jennings Militza Jennings
General Public	Kevin Baxter Terri Baxter
General Public	Manfred Kehr Sigrid Kehr
General Public	Martie Kennedy
General Public	Michael Harris
General Public	Patrick Lane Kimberly Lane
General Public	Robert Brimmer
General Public	Robert Dimino
General Public	Rox Schilling
General Public	Rox Schilling
Lake Tulloch Alliance	Greg Mayer