

Peter A Burnes  
10238 Old Oak Trail  
Grass Valley, CA 95945-4576



March 27, 2013

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

Ms. Townsend:

To the honorable members of the SWRCB:

I am an avid native California fisher and have been fishing California's great waters for over 50 years. I've also been professionally involved in water management for the past 30 years. California is the home of some of the world's most treasured fisheries. When I fish in other parts of the US and the world, the fishers I meet sadly wonder why we have let our fish suffer as we have, to or near extinction in some cases. Of course a big part of the answer is our continually growing population and our great agriculture that feeds much of the world. How do we have it all?

As stated in the SED, "The State Water Board's 2010 report, Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem, determined that approximately 60 percent of unimpaired flow at Vernalis February-June would be fully protective of fish and wildlife beneficial uses in the three eastside tributaries and LSJR when considering flow alone." Obviously, there are many factors to balance, but to conclude that nearly one half the previous scientific recommendation will suffice is not credible. Not to mention returning the bountiful fishery that was here before the water projects... our true baseline, now all but forgotten.

Yes, individuals, communities, farmers, and industries will need to continue adapting, which they can. That's what humans do. We've proven that the world's treasured fisheries you hold in your hands cannot. We've barely touched on the potential for water conservation and re-use. It is the SWRCB's responsibility to "preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations." Generations looking back 100 years from now will wonder why you chose to compromise the abundance of our - their - irreplaceable fish and wildlife rather than inspiring the development and adoption of economically achievable technologies in our homes, communities, farms, and industries that will sustain our economy and water into the far future.

Specifically, I recommend that you start with the SED recommendation, but ramp to 60% of unimpaired flows over 5 years and manage from there as the riparian corridors heal and users adapt. Don't continue to fool users into thinking there is more water than there is. They need to adapt aggressively now because ultimately, long term, they will be forced to adapt to the true water scarce environment they

are in. They, we, you could take pride in moving aggressively now to a true water conservative future. And, trust me, there's money to be made in doing so.

Most of the State lives in an arid and semi-arid landscape. Let's start behaving like it. We need to re-fill the aquifers and rivers, and finally face living within our water means. And we need to value our unique, irreplaceable heritage of awe inspiring fisheries. Doing otherwise is short sighted, irresponsible, and will hurt more in the end.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Burnes