

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



From:
Robert Gelman
Tuolumne County Resident

I'm writing today to offer input that is representative of many in my community, who are very close to the rivers whose flows are under consideration in the coming action of your agency. We realize that healthy biodiversity does not just mean a better quality of life for wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts, it presents a more healthy and resilient environment that can better withstand the many strains our crowded state's population puts on all resources, including remaining habitat for key species.

Here are some of the issues I am concerned about with respect to your decision:

- The Bay-Delta forms the West Coast's largest estuary, providing habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. It serves as a major stopover for the Pacific Flyway and as a migration path for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon traveling to and from their home streams to the Pacific Ocean.
- Historically, populations of spawning salmon may have exceeded 400,000 fish in the San Joaquin River Basin, but in many recent years that figure has plummeted to just a few thousand fish.
- Salmon are a keystone species, providing food for other animals and transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. More than 100 species depend on salmon.
- The commercial salmon fishery in California is on the brink. The salmon population was so low in 2008 and 2009 that the commercial fishing season had to be cancelled.
- Through better management of snowmelt, water efficient irrigation practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops, we could grow more food with less water.

I would be happy to discuss my concerns with you further, should there be interest, but mainly I want to see you do the right thing and maximize the flows at 75% of unimpaired outflow, or above.

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